

2026 Immigration Court Observation - INDIVIDUAL / MERIT Hearing

Date: _____ Observer: _____

1. A#: _____ ☐ IJ didn't say full A# 2. Country of origin: _____3. Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Trans/ non-binary ☐ Unsure ☐ Didn't appear, reason: _____4. Judge (IJ): ☐ Carr ☐ Ivany ☐ Mazzie ☐ Miller ☐ Sardelli ☐ Other: _____ ☐ IJ remote from other court5. DHS Attorney: _____ ☐ Inaudible ☐ Didn't state name on record ☐ Didn't appear6. Was the respondent represented today? ☐ Yes: name: _____ ☐ No, pro se ☐ Atty failed to appear7. **DOCKET:** ☐ Non-detained ☐ IHP (prison) ☐ ICE detention ☐ Unsure Comment: _____**LANGUAGE**

8. Respondent's best language: _____

9. Interpreter in best language? ☐ Yes ☐ No, language provided: _____ ☐ N/A – R speak English10. Did IJ ask attorney to waive interpretation? ☐ N/A ☐ No ☐ Yes Comment: _____11. Interpretation: ☐ No problems ☐ Problem Comment: _____**MERITS**12. Was there a motion to pretermite the case? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure Judge action: ☐ Pretermite/removal order☐ Hearing proceeds Comment: _____13. Was there mention of ACA/ Safe 3rd Country? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure Judge action: ☐ Advise refile app☐ Removal home ☐ Removal 3rd country ☐ Hearing proceeds Comment: _____

14. Relief being sought/ application being heard (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment of status | <input type="checkbox"/> I-589: <input type="checkbox"/> Asylum / <input type="checkbox"/> WOR / <input type="checkbox"/> CAT | <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver (I-601) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancellation: <input type="checkbox"/> 42A (LPR) <input type="checkbox"/> 42B | <input type="checkbox"/> Termination Dismissal | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cuban Adjustment Act | <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Departure | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure _____ |

15. Comment re evidence submitted by respondent: _____

16. Comment re evidence submitted by DHS: _____

17. Testimony/ witnesses- (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Country expert
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other supporter	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health

18. Did Judge place any constraints on testimony? ☐ Yes ☐ No Comment: _____19. Were there supporters present (court / webex) who did not testify? ☐ Yes, family ☐ Yes, other supporters ☐ No20. Respondent's entry date/ length of time in the US: _____ ☐ Unknown21. Does respondent have family in the US? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown If family present, who and what status in US: _____**Background**

22. What was said about conditions in home country?

_____ ☐ Not discussed

Criminal history23. Arrests or convictions? ☐ Not discussed ☐ No criminal Hx ☐ Has at least one arrest ☐ Has at least one conviction

Comments: _____

Legal argument

24. Describe the main argument of respondent, R's attorney, or witnesses:

25. Describe the main argument of DHS attorney:

26. Describe main questioning / reasoning of judge:

27. Did judge make an adverse credibility or character finding? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure Comment: _____**Health**

28. Was there mention of respondent having the following medical/ mental health issues?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar | <input type="checkbox"/> PTSD | <input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic brain injury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical dependency | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual assault survivor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Schizophrenia | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depression/ anxiety | <input type="checkbox"/> Torture survivor | |

Comment: _____

CONCLUSION

29. Judge's action:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Case cont'd for testimony | <input type="checkbox"/> Relief denied- removal order | <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary departure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Case cont'd for oral decision | <input type="checkbox"/> Relief granted | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Will issue written decision | Relief type: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Comment, include country of removal if relief denied: _____

30. If continued, next hearing Date: _____ Time: _____

31. If judge made final decision did parties reserve appeal? ☐ Not applicable ☐ Check if IJ noted filing fee for appealDHS: ☐ Yes ☐ No, waived Respondent: ☐ Yes ☐ No, waived ☐ Judge didn't ask ☐ Unsure

32. Other comments, impressions, concerns: