

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON

Bezunesh Tesfaye Ayehu v. Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland
Security; Joseph B. Edlow; Danielle Lehman; and Pam Bondi

Ayehu · No. 2:25-cv-02276-JNW · Decided January 16, 2026

SUMMARY

The parties jointly move to stay a federal case for 90 days while USCIS proceeds with asylum-interview scheduling and potential administrative resolution. The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington grants the stay and orders the parties to submit a status update within 90 days of the order.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jamal N. Whitehead
DECIDED	January 16, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-02276-JNW
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties jointly stipulated and moved to stay the plaintiff's Administrative Procedure Act and Mandamus Act action seeking to compel adjudication of her asylum application.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied its broad discretion to stay proceedings and its inherent authority to control the disposition of cases on its docket.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	Bezunesh Tesfaye Ayehu v. Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security, Joseph B. Edlow, Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Danielle Lehman, Director of San Francisco Asylum Office of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Pam Bondi, Attorney General

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- mandamus immigration
- administrative procedure act
- asylum
- immigration

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

immigration

administrative law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should grant the parties' stipulated request to stay the proceedings for 90 days.

HOLDINGS

1. The court granted the parties' stipulated motion and stayed the case for 90 days.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Courts have “broad discretion” to stay proceedings.” (at 2)

“[T]he power to stay proceedings is incidental to the power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Bezunesh Tesfaye Ayehu brought an action under the Administrative Procedure Act and Mandamus Act seeking to compel USCIS to adjudicate her asylum application. USCIS sent interview notices concerning the application for December 30, 2025, and January 27, 2026. The parties agreed that a 90-day stay would allow them to pursue a potential administrative resolution and conserve judicial resources.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed an action against federal immigration officials seeking, among other relief, an order compelling U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to adjudicate her asylum application. After USCIS issued interview notices in connection with the case, the parties jointly requested a 90-day stay to pursue a potential administrative resolution. The court granted the stipulated motion and ordered the parties to submit a status update within 90 days.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Clinton v. Jones, 520 U.S. 681, 706 (1997)
- Landis v. N. Am. Co., 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936)