

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

L.V.Q. v. The GEO Group, Inc.

No. 1:22-cv-0656-KES-CDB (E.D. Cal. July 10, 2025) · No. 1:22-cv-0656-KES-CDB · Decided July 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California grants the parties’ joint request to seal four exhibits attached to an informal discovery dispute letter. The court finds that sealing protects the pseudonymous plaintiff’s identity and the full name of a detained non-party, and orders the exhibits sealed until further order, with submission requirements due within five days.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	July 10, 2025
DOCKET	1:22-cv-0656-KES-CDB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered the parties' joint request to seal four exhibits attached to a joint informal discovery-dispute letter brief.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the sealing factors set forth in <i>Oregonian Publishing Co. v. U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon</i> , including whether sealing protects a compelling interest, whether that interest would be harmed absent closure, and whether less restrictive alternatives are adequate.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; order granting a request to seal documents

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- immigration

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- discovery
- privacy and confidentiality

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the four exhibits to the parties' joint informal discovery-dispute letter should be sealed to protect the identities of a pseudonymous plaintiff and a detained nonparty.
2. Whether sealing was necessary because the identified interests would be harmed absent closure and no adequate less restrictive alternative existed.

HOLDINGS

1. The four exhibits to the parties' joint informal discovery-dispute letter should be sealed because protecting the identities of the pseudonymous plaintiff and the detained nonparty served compelling interests.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court finds that, for the reasons stated in the parties’ Joint Request, sealing the four exhibits to the parties’ joint informal discovery dispute letter which contain the names of Plaintiff, proceeding under pseudonym, and of the non-party, detained individual serves a compelling interest.” (at 1-2)

“IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the four exhibits to the parties’ joint informal discovery dispute letter shall be SEALED until further order of this Court.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The exhibits sought to be sealed contained discovery requests and related email exchanges that mentioned the plaintiff's name and the full name of a nonparty who had been detained at Mesa Verde. The plaintiff was proceeding under a pseudonym, and the parties represented that the nonparty's full name required redaction under 8 C.F.R. § 236.6. Redacted documents had already been filed publicly.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties jointly requested sealing on July 8, 2025. The exhibits contained discovery requests and related email exchanges identifying the pseudonymous plaintiff and a nonparty who had been detained at Mesa Verde. Redacted versions were publicly filed, and the court granted the request to seal the four exhibits until further order.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Oregonian Publ'g Co. v. U.S. Dist. Court for the Dist. of Or., 920 F.2d 1462 (9th Cir. 1990)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 L.V.Q., Case No. 1:22-cv-0656-KES-CDB 12 Plaintiff, ORDER
GRANTING JOINT REQUEST TO SEAL DOCUMENTS 13 v. (Doc. 31) 14 THE GEO GROUP,

INC., 15 Defendant. 5-DAY DEADLINE 16 17 Pending before the Court is the parties' joint request to seal documents, filed on July 8, 2025 18 (Doc.

31), and mailed to the undersigned's chambers, along with a Joint Request to Seal Documents and 19 the documents sought to be sealed. The parties jointly request the Court seal four exhibits to the parties' 20 joint informal discovery dispute letter brief filed on July 8, 2025. (Doc. 32).

The parties represent that 21 the exhibits accompanying the letter brief, filed in advance of the discovery dispute conference held July 22 10, 2025, at 9:00 AM (see Docs. 30, 33), include requests for discovery and related email exchanges that 23 mention Plaintiff's name and the name of an individual who was detained at Mesa Verde. Id. at 2.

The 24 parties request the Court seal these documents as the Court has allowed Plaintiff to proceed under 25 pseudonym (see Doc. 6) and the full name of the non-party, detained individual should be redacted 26 pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 236.6 such that his full name is not disclosed in documents on the public docket. 27 Id. 28 The Court has considered the factors set forth in *Oregonian Publ'g Co. v. U.S. Dist.*

Court for 1 || *Dist. of Or.*, 920 F.2d 1462 (9th Cir. 1990). The Court finds that, for the reasons stated in the parties' 2 || Joint Request, sealing the four exhibits to the parties' joint informal discovery dispute letter which 3 || contain the names of Plaintiff, proceeding under pseudonym, and of the non-party, detained individual 4 || serves a compelling interest.

The Court further finds that, in the absence of closure, the compelling 5 || interests identified by the parties in their Joint Request would be harmed. In light of the public filing of 6 || the redacted documents (Doc. 32-1), the Court further finds that there are no additional alternatives to 7 || sealing the exhibits to the parties' joint informal discovery dispute letter that would adequately protect 8 || the compelling interests identified by the parties.

9 Conclusion and Order 10 Accordingly, pursuant to Local Rule 141 and based upon the representations contained in the 11 || parties' Joint Notice and request (Doc. 31), IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the four exhibits to the 12 || parties' joint informal discovery dispute letter shall be SEALED until further order of this Court. 13 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED within (5) days of issuance of this Order, the parties shall submit a 14 || copy of this Order, the Joint Request to Seal Documents, and documents to be sealed by email to the 15 || Operations Section of the Clerk of the Court: ApprovedSealed@caed.uscourts.gov.

16 | IT IS SO ORDERED. Dated: _ July 10, 2025 | Wr bo 18 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28