

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Marco Antonio Rene Huertas Falcon v. Jonathan Florentino, et al.

Huertas Falcon v. Florentino · No. 1:25-cv-17164 (MW) · Decided January 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of New Jersey grants Respondents’ motion to seal Exhibit A, the credible fear packet filed with the answer to an amended petition. The Court finds that the exhibit contains pervasive sensitive personal information protected by federal immigration confidentiality regulations and that sealing is necessary because redaction would be insufficient.

CASE DETAILS

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT              | United States District Court for the District of New Jersey                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| JURISDICTION       | United States District Court for the District of New Jersey                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| DECIDED            | January 6, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DOCKET             | 1:25-cv-17164 (MW)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| DISPOSITION        | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE | Respondents moved to seal Exhibit A, a Credible Fear Packet, attached to their answer to the amended habeas petition.                                                                                                                                |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW | The Court applied the standards governing public access to judicial records and sealing under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2 and Local Civil Rule 5.3(c), requiring a clearly defined and serious injury and a narrowly tailored sealing order. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE | nonprecedential                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| PARTIES            | Marco Antonio Rene Huertas Falcon v. Jonathan Florentino, et al.                                                                                                                                                                                     |

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- asylum
- immigration

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- immigration
- habeas corpus

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Exhibit A to Respondents' Answer should be filed and maintained under seal because it contains pervasive sensitive personal information protected by federal confidentiality provisions.

## HOLDINGS

1. Exhibit A must be filed and maintained under seal because disclosure would create a clearly defined and serious injury, the materials are subject to federal confidentiality protections, and sealing rather than redaction is necessary and narrowly tailored.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“Redaction alone would be insufficient to protect these interests because the sensitive information is pervasive throughout the filing.”*

*“Consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2 and Local Civil Rule 5.3(c), the Court finds that sealing is necessary and narrowly tailored.”*

*“IT IS THEREFORE on this te day of January, 2026, ORDERED that Respondents’ Motion to Seal (ECF No, 10) is GRANTED”*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Exhibit A to Respondents' Answer contained Petitioner's sensitive personal information. The information was pervasive throughout the filing, making redaction insufficient or infeasible. Disclosure could expose Petitioner to serious risk and would conflict with federal confidentiality protections applicable to credible-fear materials.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

In this federal habeas proceeding, Respondents filed an Answer to the Amended Petition and moved to file Exhibit A under seal. The District Court reviewed the exhibit and relevant authorities and granted the motion.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- In re Cendant Corp., 260 F.3d 662 (3d Cir. 2019)

## OPINION

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY  
MARCO ANTONIO RENE HUERTAS FALCON, Petitioner, Civil Action No. 25-17164 (MW) v  
MEMORANDUM ORDER JONATHAN FLORENTINO, et al., Respondents. This matter comes before the Court on Respondents’ Motion to Seal Exhibit A (Credible Fear Packet) of the Answer to the Amended Petition (ECF No. 6).

(ECF No. 10.) The Court has reviewed Exhibit A and the relevant authorities. For the reasons set forth below, the Motion is granted, Respondents seek leave to file Exhibit A within the Answer to the Amended Petition under seal because it contains Petitioner's sensitive personal information, (ECF No. 10-1 { 7,} Disclosure of these materials could expose Petitioner's sensitive personal information to the public.

Ud.) Redaction alone would be insufficient to protect these interests because the sensitive information is pervasive throughout the filing. (fd. 99.) Local Civil Rule 5.3(c) allows sealing when there is a showing that disclosure would result in clearly defined and serious injury. (ECF No. 10-2 ¶ 6.)

The Court has reviewed Respondents Motion to Seal (ECF No. 10) and finds that Exhibit A within the Answer to the Amended Petition (ECF No. 6) contains Petitioner's sensitive personal information subject to mandatory confidentiality protections under 8 C.F.R. §§ 208.6 and 1208.6. Disclosure of this material could place Petitioner at serious risk and would contravene these federal confidentiality provisions, Consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2 and Local Civil Rule 5.3(c), the Court finds that sealing is necessary and narrowly tailored.

Redaction is not feasible because the sensitive information is widespread throughout the filings. The Third Circuit's public-access decisions recognize that the presumption of access yields where countervailing interests are grounded in statute or where disclosure would cause a clearly defined and serious injury. See *In re Cendant Corp.*, 260 F.3d 662 6d Cir.

2019). 'That standard is satisfied here. Accordingly, the Court concludes that Petitioner has satisfied the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, Local Civil Rule 5.3(c), and controlling Third Circuit precedent. IT IS THEREFORE on this te day of January, 2026, ORDERED that Respondents' Motion to Seal (ECF No, 10) is GRANTED; and it is further ORDERED that the documents filed withm Exhibit A of the Answer to the Amended Petition (ECF No. 6) shall be SEALED; and it is further ORDERED that the Clerk of Court is directed to maintain the sealed materials in accordance with this Order; and it is further ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall serve a copy of this Order upon the parties electronically. aoe se i a = - etna United States District Judge