

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON

Norma Karla Farias Romero v. Director, U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services, et al.

Farias Romero · No. 2:25-cv-01287-JNW · Decided January 12, 2026

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulated motion by the parties in an Administrative Procedure Act action concerning USCIS adjudication of Form I-918/I-918A petitions. The parties request that the case remain stayed until January 23, 2026, and the court orders the case held in abeyance through that date with a status update due then.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jamal N. Whitehead
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
DECIDED	January 12, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-01287-JNW
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought an Administrative Procedure Act action seeking to compel USCIS to issue bona fide or wait-list determinations on Form I-918/I-918A petitions. The parties stipulated to a continued stay while USCIS's adjudication and delivery of employment documentation were completed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Abuse-of-discretion framework for a district court's decision to stay proceedings; the court stated that courts have broad discretion to stay proceedings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential docket-management order

TOPICS

- administrative procedure act
- agency adjudication
- immigration
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should continue the stay of the APA proceedings while the plaintiff awaited delivery of employment documentation from USCIS.

HOLDINGS

1. A court may continue to stay proceedings when good cause supports the stay and the court determines that doing so is appropriate to control the disposition of matters on its docket.
2. The case was held in abeyance until January 23, 2026, and the parties were ordered to submit a status update on or before that date.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“[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 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Norma Karla Farias Romero filed an APA action concerning USCIS's handling of her and her derivatives' Form I-918/I-918A petitions. USCIS had adjudicated the petitions, but systems issues delayed delivery of employment documentation to Romero. The parties represented that they would stipulate to dismissal once the documents were received.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The case had previously been stayed through January 9, 2026. The parties reported that USCIS had adjudicated the petitions but that the plaintiff had not yet received employment documentation because of USCIS systems issues. The court granted the stipulated request and held the case in abeyance through January 23, 2026, directing the parties to file a status update by that date.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

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