

Our running list of judges who have ruled on ICE's mass detention policy

POLITICO is keeping track of the federal judges who have ruled on the administration's effort to systematically lock up thousands of people.



ICE's policy has led to a deluge of emergency lawsuits brought by individual detainees, thousands of whom have challenged their detention as illegal and unconstitutional. | Charly Triballeau/AFP via Getty Images

By **KYLE CHENEY**

02/18/2026 05:00 AM EST

Updated: 03/10/2026 01:50 PM EDT



Federal judges across the country have been grappling for months with [ICE's decision to dramatically expand the number of people](#) the agency locks up in detention facilities while their deportation proceedings are pending. This “mandatory detention” push — an unprecedented reinterpretation of decades-old laws — has resulted in thousands of people, most without criminal records, being detained, even if they have lived in the country for decades without incident.

That has led to a deluge of emergency lawsuits brought by individual detainees, thousands of whom have challenged their detention as illegal and unconstitutional.

District court judges [appointed by every president](#) since Ronald Reagan have [overwhelmingly agreed, rejecting the new policy](#), while a small but growing minority — primarily of Trump-appointed judges — has endorsed the administration's view. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has [embraced that outlier view](#) as well. But the issue is [far from settled](#) and could be on track for the Supreme Court.

POLITICO is keeping track of the federal judges across the country who have ruled on the new policy, along with links to their key opinions. See our rolling list below.

How ICE's mass detention policy has fared in court


Judges who have ruled **for** and **against** Trump's unprecedented mass detention policy





















Page 1 of 5







Judge	For/Against	State / District	Appointed by	Notable ruling
Alan Albright	Against	TXWD	Donald Trump	
Bernard Jones II	Against	OKWD	Donald Trump	
Brantley Starr	For	TXND	Donald Trump	
Brett Ludwig	For	WIED	Donald Trump	
Brian Buescher	For	NE	Donald Trump	
C.J. Williams	Against	IAND	Donald Trump	
Chad Kenney	Against	PAED	Donald Trump	
Chad Meredith	For	KYED	Donald Trump	
Charles Atchley, Jr.	Against	TNED	Donald Trump	
Charles Eskridge III	For	TXSD	Donald Trump	
Christy Wiegand	Against	PAWD	Donald Trump	
Claria Horn Boom	Against	KYED, KYWD	Donald Trump	
Corey Maze	For	ALND	Donald Trump	
Cristian Stevens	For	MOED	Donald Trump	
Damon Leichty	Against	INND	Donald Trump	
Daniel Traynor	For	ND	Donald Trump	
David Joseph	For	LAWD	Donald Trump	
David Novak	Against	VAED	Donald Trump	
Dominic Lanza	Against	AZ	Donald Trump	
Douglas Cole	For	OHSD	Donald Trump	

Eric Komitee	Against	NYED	Donald Trump	
Eric Tostrud	Against	MN	Donald Trump	
Fernando Aenlle-Rocha	Against	CACD	Donald Trump	
Fernando Rodriguez Jr.	Against	TXSD	Donald Trump	
Hala Jarbou	Against	MIWD	Donald Trump	
Howard Nielson, Jr.	For	UT	Donald Trump	
J.P. Hanlon	Against	INSD	Donald Trump	
James Hendrix	For	TXND	Donald Trump	
James Sweeney II	Against	INSD	Donald Trump	
Jason Pulliam	Against	TXWD	Donald Trump	
Jennifer Wilson	Against	PAMD	Donald Trump	
Jodi Dishman	For	OKWD	Donald Trump	
John Cronan	For	NYSD	Donald Trump	
John Gallagher	Against	PAED	Donald Trump	
John Hinderaker	Against	AZ	Donald Trump	
John Holcomb	Against	CACD	Donald Trump	
John Sinatra Jr.	For	NYWD	Donald Trump	
John Younge	Against	PAED	Donald Trump	
Jordan Pratt	For	FLMD	Donald Trump	
Joshua Divine	For	MOED, MOWD	Donald Trump	
Joshua Wolson	Against	PAED	Donald Trump	
Karen Marston	Against	PAED	Donald Trump	
Karen Scholer	Against	TXND	Donald Trump	

Katherine Crytzer	Against	TNED	Donald Trump	
Kea Riggs	Against	NM	Donald Trump	
Kyle Dudek*	Against	FLMD	Donald Trump	
Kyle Dudek*	For	FLMD	Donald Trump	
Lance Walker	Against	ME	Donald Trump	
Lewis Liman	Against	NYSD	Donald Trump	
Maria Lanahan	For	MOED	Donald Trump	
Mark Norris	For	TNWD	Donald Trump	
Martha Pacold	For	ILND	Donald Trump	
Mary Kay Vyskocil	For	NYSD	Donald Trump	
Mary McElroy	Against	RI	Donald Trump	
Mary Rowland	Against	ILND	Donald Trump	
Michael Liburdi*	Against	AZ	Donald Trump	
Michael Liburdi*	For	AZ	Donald Trump	
Michael Truncale	Against	TXED	Donald Trump	
Nancy Brasel	Against	MN	Donald Trump	
Nicholas Ranjan	Against	PAWD	Donald Trump	
Patrick Wyrick	For	OKWD	Donald Trump	
Raag Singhal	For	FLSD	Donald Trump	
Raul Arias-Marxuach	For	PR	Donald Trump	
Rebecca Grady Jennings	Against	KYWD	Donald Trump	
Rodney Smith	Against	FLSD	Donald Trump	
Rossie Alston, Jr	Against	VAED	Donald Trump	

Roy Altman	For	FLSD	Donald Trump	
Scott Palk	Against	OKWD	Donald Trump	
Scott Rash	Against	AZ	Donald Trump	
Silvia Carreño-Coll	Against	PR	Donald Trump	
Stanley Blumenfeld Jr.	For	CACD	Donald Trump	
Stephanie Gallagher	Against	MD	Donald Trump	
Stephanie Haines	Against	PAWD	Donald Trump	
Steven Grimberg	Against	GAND	Donald Trump	
Susan Brnovich	For	AZ	Donald Trump	
Terry Doughty*	Against	LAWD	Donald Trump	
Terry Doughty*	For	LAWD	Donald Trump	
Todd Robinson	Against	CASD	Donald Trump	
Tommy Parker	Against	TNWD	Donald Trump	
William Stickman, IV	Against	PAWD	Donald Trump	
Adam Abelson	Against	MD	Joe Biden	
Adrienne Nelson	Against	OR	Joe Biden	
Amanda Brailsford	Against	ID	Joe Biden	
Amy Baggio	Against	OR	Joe Biden	
Andrew Schopler	Against	CASD	Joe Biden	
Angel Kelley	Against	MA	Joe Biden	
Angela Martinez	Against	AZ	Joe Biden	
Anne Hwang	Against	CACD	Joe Biden	
April Perry	Against	ILND	Joe Biden	

Araceli Martinez-Olguin	Against	CAND	Joe Biden	
Arun Subramanian	Against	NYSD	Joe Biden	
Benjamin Cheeks	Against	CASD	Joe Biden	
Brandy McMillion	Against	MIED	Joe Biden	

Found a judge who isn't listed? Reach out: kcheney@politico.com

FILED UNDER:

EMPLOYMENT & IMMIGRATION, IMMIGRATION, DONALD TRUMP, LEGAL, IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

POLITICO Forecast

Global power is in flux. Your daily guide to what comes next.



EMAIL

Your Email

EMPLOYER

Employer

* All fields must be completed to subscribe

SIGN UP

By signing up, you acknowledge and agree to our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#). You may unsubscribe at any time by following the directions at the bottom of the email or by [contacting us here](#). This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) apply.

[About Us](#)

[Advertising](#)

[Breaking News Alerts](#)

[Careers](#)

[Credit Card Payments](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Headlines](#)

[Photos](#)

[Press](#)

[Request A Correction](#)

[Write For Us](#)

[RSS](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

© 2026 POLITICO LLC