

District Judge Tana Lin

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

VICTOR ARGENIS REA-HERNANDEZ,

Petitioner,

v.

PAMELA BONDI, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Case No. 2:25-cv-02609-TL

**STIPULATED MOTION TO SEAL
AND [PROPOSED] ORDER**

Noted for Consideration:
January 23, 2026.

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 5(g), Petitioner Victor Argenis Rea-Hernandez and Federal Respondents move to seal the unredacted version of the Declaration of Eddie Wang, M.D. (“Wang Decl.”), filed at Dkt. 23. The parties stipulate to seal the Wang Decl. in order to protect Petitioner’s sensitive medical information. The document in question contains details of Petitioner’s prior and current medical treatment.

While “[t]here is a strong presumption of public access to the court’s files,” LCR 5(g), a party may overcome that presumption by showing “‘compelling reasons’ sufficient to outweigh the public’s interest in disclosure and justify sealing court records.” *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1179 (9th Cir. 2006); *see also* LCR 5(g)(3)(B)(i). “What constitutes a ‘compelling reason’ is ‘best left to the sound discretion of the trial court.’” *Ctr. for Auto Safety v.*

1 *Chrysler Grp., LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1097 (9th Cir. 2016) (quoting *Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns,*
2 *Inc.*, 435 U.S. 489, 599 (1978)). But “[t]he need to protect medical privacy qualifies in general as
3 a ‘compelling reason.’” *Karpenski v. Am. Gen. Life Cos., LLC*, No. 2:12-cv-01569-RSM, 2013
4 WL 5588312, at *1 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 9, 2013); *see also Johnsen v. Tambe*, No. 19-141-TSZ-
5 MLP, 2019 WL 4014256, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 26, 2019) (finding “Plaintiff’s privacy interest
6 in his own medical records to be a sufficiently compelling reason to seal the medical records
7 themselves”).

8 Here, the document the parties seek to seal contains Petitioner’s personal medical
9 information. Sealing the entirety of this document, and allowing the United States to publicly file
10 a redacted version of Dr. Wang’s declaration with the full declaration filed under seal, is the least
11 restrictive means of protecting the sensitive medical information, as the records as a whole are
12 relevant to the issues in the case but also are replete with sensitive information that cannot be
13 more narrowly redacted or protected. LCR 5(g)(3)(B)(iii).

14 DATED this 23rd day of January, 2026.

15 Respectfully submitted,

16 CHARLES NEIL FLOYD
United States Attorney

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER’S OFFICE

17 s/ Alixandria K. Morris

s/ Ann K. Wagner

18 ALIXANDRIA K. MORRIS, TX#24095373
Assistant United States Attorney
19 Western District of Washington
United States Attorney’s Office
20 1201 Pacific Avenue, Suite 700
Tacoma, Washington 98402
21 Phone: 253-428-3824
Email: alixandria.morris@usdoj.gov

ANN K. WAGNER, WSBA No. 51352
1601 Fifth Ave., Ste 700
Seattle, WA 98101
Phone: 206-553-1100
Email: ann_wagner@fd.org

Attorney for Petitioner

22 *Attorney for Federal Respondents*

23 I certify that this memorandum contains 313
24 words, in compliance with the Local Civil Rules.

STIPULATED MOTION TO SEAL AND [PROPOSED] ORDER
[Case No. 2:25-cv-02609-TL] - 2

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
700 STEWART STREET, SUITE 5220
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101
(206) 553-7970

[PROPOSED] ORDER

The parties having agreed, it is so ORDERED. The Clerk will seal the Declaration of Eddie Wang, M.D., filed at Dkt. 23. Federal Defendants are authorized to file a redacted version of the declaration that redacts any references that would otherwise reveal Plaintiff's sensitive medical information.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

TANA LIN
United States District Judge