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19		CRN DIVISON	
20	IMMIGRANT DEFENDERS LAW	Case No. 2:20-cv-09893-JGB-SHK	
21	CENTER, et al.,		
22	Plaintiffs,	PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF MOTION AND EMERGENCY	
23	V.	MOTION FOR PROVISIONAL CLASS CERTIFICATION	
24	CHAD WOLF, et al.,	Judge: Honorable Jesus G. Bernal	
25	Defendants.	Date: December 14, 2020 Time: 9:00 a.m.	
26	Defendants.	Crtrm: 1	
27		Action Filed: October 28, 2020	
28			

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NOTICE OF MOTION AND EMERGENCY MOTION FOR PROVISIONAL CLASS CERTIFICATION

TO DEFENDANTS AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on December 14, 2020, or as soon thereafter as this matter may be heard, in Courtroom 1 of the above-entitled Court, located at 3470 Twelfth Street, Riverside, CA 92501, or remotely via teleconference or videoconference, before the Honorable Jesus Bernal, Plaintiffs Immigrant Defenders Law Center, et al. will, and hereby do, move the Court to provisionally certify the following class pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23:

All noncitizens who (1) expressed or will express a fear of persecution in their home countries or a desire to seek asylum; (2) were or will be subject to the Migrant Protection Protocols; and (3) presented, will present, or have been directed to present themselves at the San Ysidro or Calexico ports of entry.

Plaintiffs also request that the Court appoint Daniel Doe, Hannah Doe, Benjamin Doe, Jessica Doe, Anthony Doe, Nicholas Doe, Feliza Doe, and Jaqueline Doe as class representatives.

Plaintiffs further request that the Court appoint Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP, Southern Poverty Law Center, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, and Innovation Law Lab as class counsel.

Individual Plaintiffs and others similarly situated are trapped in dangerous zones and transit corridors in Mexico, where they have endured physical attacks and threats, have been denied their basic human needs, and have been deprived of access to legal assistance. Due to the urgency of the issues raised in the accompanying Memorandum of Points and Authorities and the Emergency Motion for a Preliminary Injunction, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all those similarly situated, respectfully request this Court to schedule a hearing on December 14, 2020.

1	This motion is based on this Notice of Motion and Motion, the accompanying	
2	Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the accompanying Declarations in support	
3	of Class Certification, all pleadings and papers filed in this action, and all other	
4	matters properly before this Court. This motion is made following the conference of	
5	counsel pursuant to L.R. 7-3, which took place on October 30, 2020.	
6		
7	Dated: November 9, 2020 ARNOLD & PORTER KAYE SCHOLER LLP	
8	D / / A 1 T N . 1	
9	By: /s/ Angel Tang Nakamura ANGEL TANG NAKAMURA	
10	JOHN A. FREEDMAN	
11	EMILY REEDER-RICCHETTI	
12	Attorneys for Plaintiffs	
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14	Dated: November 9, 2020 SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER	
15		
16	By: /s/ Melissa Crow MELISSA CROW	
17	GRACIE WILLIS	
18	Attorneys for Plaintiffs	
19		
20	Dated: November 9, 2020 NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD	
21		
22	By: /s/ Sirine Shebaya	
23	MATTHEW VOGEL AMBER QURESHI	
24	Attorneys for Plaintiffs	
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26	Dated: November 9, 2020 INNOVATION LAW LAB	
27	Introduction of 2020 Introduction Entry Entry	
28	By: /s/ Stephen W. Manning	
	PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF MOTION AND EMERGENCY MOTION	

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18	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
19	EASIL	RN DIVISION	
20	IMMIGRANT DEFENDERS LAW	Case No. 2:20-cv-09893-JGB-SHK	
21	CENTER, et al.,	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS	
22	Plaintiffs,	AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'	
23	V.	EMERGENCY MOTION FOR PROVISIONAL CLASS	
24	CHAD WOLF, et al.,	CERTIFICATION	
25	Defendants.	Judge: Honorable Jesus G. Bernal Date: December 14, 2020	
26		Time: 9:00 a.m.	
27		Crtrm: 1	
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3 4	In re ConAgra Foods, Inc., 302 F.R.D. 537 (C.D. Cal. 2014)
56	In re Cooper Cos. Inc. Sec. Litig., 254 F.R.D. 628 (C.D. Cal. 2009)
7 8	Inland Empire-Immigrant Youth Collective v. Nielsen, No. EDCV 17-2048 PSG, 2018 WL 1061408 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 26, 2018)
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I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs respectfully move this Court, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, to provisionally certify the following class of individuals:

All noncitizens who (1) expressed or will express a fear of persecution in their home countries or a desire to seek asylum; (2) were or will be subject to the Migrant Protection Protocols; and (3) presented, will present, or have been directed to present themselves at the San Ysidro or Calexico port of entry.

Plaintiffs further request that the Court appoint all named Individual Plaintiffs as class representatives and appoint the undersigned counsel as class counsel.

This case readily meets the threshold requirements of Rule 23(a). First, the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable under Rule 23(a)(1). The class includes thousands of asylum seekers subject to the Migrant Protection Protocols ("MPP" or "Protocols") who presented, will present or have been directed to present themselves at the San Ysidro or Calexico port of entry and are currently waiting in Mexico for their immigration court hearings, which are unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future.

Second, there are questions of law and fact common to the proposed class under Rule 23(a)(2). Class members fled persecution and are seeking asylum in the United States. After entering the United States through the southern border on or after January 19, 2019, class members were subjected to the Migrant Protection Protocols, which force them to wait under dangerous conditions in Mexico for their hearings in U.S. immigration court. All class members will present, have presented, or have been directed to present at the San Ysidro or Calexico port of entry. They each raise the same legal claims, and they seek declaratory and injunctive relief that would benefit the class as a whole.

Third, Individual Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the class under Rule 23(a)(3). Their claims arise from the same course of conduct, and they are united in their interest and injury.

Fourth, Individual Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the class under Rule 23(a)(4), as they seek relief on behalf of the class as a whole and have no interests antagonistic to other members of the class. They are represented by attorneys with extensive experience in immigrants' rights and class action litigation.

This case also qualifies for certification under Rule 23(b)(2) because Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds that are generally applicable to Individual Plaintiffs and the class as a whole. Through their Return Policy, Deprivation of Counsel Policy, and Presentation Requirement, Defendants have denied all class members a meaningful right to apply for asylum and violated both their statutory and constitutional rights. Class members seek identical declaratory and injunctive relief that would remedy their harms in a single stroke.

The Court should provisionally certify this class. Courts in the Ninth Circuit "routinely grant provisional class certification for purposes of entering injunctive relief." *Ahlman v. Barnes*, 445 F. Supp. 3d 671, 682 (C.D. Cal. 2020) (citation and quotation marks omitted). And numerous courts in this Circuit have certified similar actions brought by immigrants in government custody. *See Doe v. Wolf*, 424 F. Supp. 3d 1028, 1034 (S.D. Cal. 2020) (certifying class of individuals in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody awaiting non-refoulement interviews under the Migrant Protection Protocols); *Hernandez v. Lynch*, No. EDCV 16-00620-JGB, 2016 WL 7116611, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 10, 2016), *aff'd sub nom. Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d 976 (9th Cir. 2017) (certifying a class of individuals who are or will be detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)); *Orantes-Hernandez v. Smith*, 541 F. Supp. 351, 370 (C.D. Cal. 1982) (certifying a class of Salvadoran citizens eligible to apply for asylum who have been or will be taken into immigration custody). Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court do the same here.

II. BACKGROUND

Individuals arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border have the right to apply for asylum in the United States under the Refugee Act of 1980 ("the Refugee Act"). Any noncitizen "physically present in the United States or who arrives in the United States . . . irrespective of such alien's status" has the right to apply for asylum. 8 U.S.C. § 1158(a)(1). That right is robust, and includes the right to counsel, at no expense to the government, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1158(d)(4); the right to notice of the right to counsel, *see id.*; and the right to access information in support of an application, *see* § 1158(b)(1)(B) (placing the burden on the applicant to present evidence establishing eligibility).

Defendants' Migrant Protection Protocols, which include several independent and related policies described below, undermine both the right to apply for asylum and the related rights to obtain and access counsel and receive a full and fair hearing on asylum claims. Individual Plaintiffs and members of the proposed class have been harmed by Defendants' implementation of each of these policies.

A. The Return Policy

Under the Return Policy, class members are returned to Mexico to await their immigration court hearings. *See*, *e.g.*, Declaration of Feliza Doe ("Feliza Doe Decl.") ¶¶ 15 (explaining Defendants returned her to Mexico under the Protocols after she expressed her intent to seek asylum); Declaration of Anthony Doe ("Anthony Doe Decl.") ¶ 5 (same); Declaration of Benjamin Doe ("Benjamin Doe Decl.") ¶ 7 (same); Declaration of Nicholas Doe ("Nicholas Doe Decl.") ¶ 6 (same); Declaration of Daniel Doe ("Daniel Doe Decl.") ¶ 7 (same); Declaration of Jessica Doe ("Jessica Doe Decl.") ¶¶ 4, 12 (same); Declaration of Hannah Doe ("Hannah Doe Decl.") ¶¶ 7-10 (same); Declaration of Jaqueline Doe ("Jaqueline Doe Decl.") ¶¶ 12, 17 (same); *see generally*

¹ Pub. L. No. 96-212, 94 Stat. 102 (1980) (codified under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)).

Compl. ¶¶ 57-70. Defendants, pursuant to this Policy, are to schedule those hearings for "a specific . . . date and time." On their scheduled immigration court hearing dates, class members must present themselves at the San Ysidro port of entry so that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) can process them and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) can transport them to the San Diego immigration court for their hearings.³

B. The Deprivation of Counsel Policy

Defendants' Deprivation of Counsel Policy gives represented class members a minimum of one hour to consult with their legal representatives in advance of their immigration court hearings.⁴ In practice, legal representatives and class members are rarely, if ever, permitted a full hour to meet with their clients before each hearing. Conditions in Mexico make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for represented class members to communicate with their legal representatives, gather and share needed evidence, and prepare for court appearances. *See*, *e.g.*, Benjamin Doe Decl. ¶¶ 24-26; Nicholas Doe Decl. ¶¶ 9; Feliza Doe ¶¶ 32-35; *see generally* Compl. ¶¶ 71-83. Defendants do not provide class members with an adequate list of pro bono legal service providers, *see*, *e.g.*, Daniel Doe Decl. ¶¶ 15, and refuse to allow pro bono attorneys to meet with unrepresented class members physically present in immigration court prior to their hearings, *see* Declaration of Margaret Cargioli ("Cargioli Decl.") ¶ 34. These restrictions obstruct class members' ability to locate and retain paid or pro bono legal representatives. *See*, *e.g.*, Anthony Doe Decl. ¶¶ 15, 17-19; Hannah

² See Declaration of Hannah Coleman ("Coleman Decl."), Ex. F (ICE ERO MPP Guiding Principles).

³ Coleman Decl., Ex. J (ICE Policy Memorandum) at 2.

⁴ Coleman Decl., Ex. J (providing that, to "facilitate" access to legal representation for individuals subjected to the Protocols, "ERO will depart from the [port of entry] with the alien at a time sufficient to ensure arrival at the immigration court not later than one hour before his or her scheduled hearing time in order to afford the alien the opportunity to meet in-person with his or her legal representative.").

Doe Decl. ¶ 14. As a result, ninety-three percent of individuals subject to the Protocols are not represented in their immigration court hearings.⁵

C. The Presentation Requirement

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Through the Presentation Requirement, the Protocols require class members to present themselves at a designated port of entry to gain access to the U.S. asylum system, to attend their immigration court hearings, and to maintain their tenuous status in Mexico. Class members must present themselves at the port of entry on the days of their hearings and must return to the port of entry in order to renew their status in Mexico when their hearings have been postponed under the Hearing Suspension Directive. See Declaration of Michael Bochenek ("Bochenek Decl.") ¶ 16-23. The Presentation Requirement traps class members in dangerous zones and transit corridors around the port of entry based on their precarious migration status and their lack of resources to move elsewhere and still comply with this Requirement. Compl. ¶¶ 84-87; e.g., Hannah Doe Decl. ¶¶ 22-29 (describing having to live near border to make multiple trips to present at port of entry); Nicholas Doe Decl. ¶¶ 9-13 (itemizing multiple trips to port of entry to present); see also Bochenek Decl. ¶¶ 16-23 (describing Presentation Requirement's impact on migrants as "arduous and dangerous"); Declaration of Daniel Berlin ("Berlin Decl.") ¶¶ 17-28 (explaining reasons why individuals subjected to MPP are forced to remain near the border).

D. The Hearing Suspension Directive

Since late March 2020, Defendants have postponed MPP hearings *en masse* six times, leaving Class Members waiting, potentially indefinitely, for their court hearings. Compl. ¶¶ 88-89. On July 17, 2020, Defendants announced an indefinite

⁵ Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), *Details on MPP (Remain in Mexico) Deportation Proceedings by Hearing Location and Attendance, Representation, Nationality, Month and Year of NTA, Outcome, and Current Status* (Sept. 2020), *available at* https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/mpp/ (filter set to "Represented"); *see* Declaration of Amber Qureshi ("Qureshi Decl.") ¶ 6.

suspension of hearings and stated that hearings would resume only after certain "threshold criteria" relating to the COVID-19 pandemic had been met, both in Mexico and in the border states of California, Arizona, and Texas. Compl. ¶¶ 90-93.

The "threshold criteria" set forth in the Hearing Suspension Directive will not be met in the foreseeable future. Declaration of Dr. Arthur L. Reingold ("Reingold Decl.") ¶¶ 16, 27. Because of the recent surge in COVID-19 infections and deaths in the United States and Mexico, the criteria for re-starting MPP hearings are unlikely to be met "for at least the next six to nine months and potentially even longer." *Id.* ¶ 29. Thus, through the Hearing Suspension Directive, Defendants have indefinitely postponed MPP hearings. Compl. ¶ 88-97. This leaves individuals subject to the Protocols, including class members, stranded under dangerous conditions in Mexico with no end in sight.

III. ARGUMENT

A plaintiff whose lawsuit meets the requirements of Rule 23 has a "categorical" right "to pursue his claim as a class action." *Shady Grove Orthopedic Assocs.*, *P.A. v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 559 U.S. 393, 398 (2010). To meet these requirements, the "suit must satisfy the criteria set forth in [Rule 23(a)] (*i.e.*, numerosity, commonality, typicality, and adequacy of representation), and it also must fit into one of the three categories described in subdivision (b)." *Id.*

For the reasons discussed below, Plaintiffs' proposed class satisfies all four Rule 23(a) prerequisites. The proposed class likewise meets the requirements for certification under Rule 23(b)(2). The Court should therefore provisionally certify the proposed class.

A. The Proposed Class is So Numerous That Joinder is Impracticable.

Rule 23(a)(1) requires that the class be "so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1). "Impracticability does not mean impossibility," only the "difficulty or inconvenience in joining all members of the

class." *In re ConAgra Foods, Inc.*, 302 F.R.D. 537, 568 (C.D. Cal. 2014) (quoting *Harris v. Palm Springs Alpine Estates, Inc.*, 329 F.2d 909, 913–14 (9th Cir. 1964)). For plaintiffs seeking injunctive or declaratory relief, "the numerosity requirement is relaxed and plaintiffs may rely on the reasonable inference arising from plaintiffs' other evidence that the number of unknown and future members of [the proposed class] is sufficient to make joinder impracticable." *Inland Empire-Immigrant Youth Collective v. Nielsen*, No. EDCV 17-2048 PSG, 2018 WL 1061408, at *5 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 26, 2018) (quoting *Sueoka v. United States*, 101 F. App'x 649, 653 (9th Cir. 2004)). Although there is no numerical cutoff to determine whether a class is sufficiently numerous, courts in the Ninth Circuit and in this district generally presume sufficient numerosity where the plaintiff class contains forty or more members. *See, e.g., In re Cooper Cos. Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 254 F.R.D. 628, 634 (C.D. Cal. 2009); *Tait v. BSH Home Appliances Corp.*, 289 F.R.D. 466, 473 (C.D. Cal. 2012); *see also Jordan v. Cnty. of Los Angeles*, 669 F.2d 1311, 1319-20 (9th Cir. 1982), *vacated on other grounds*, 459 U.S. 810 (1982).

The proposed class in this case easily meets the requirements of Rule 23(a)(1). Based on data available through September 2020, the class includes at least 4,000 asylum seekers subjected to the Protocols who are currently awaiting their immigration court hearings in Mexico and have presented or have been directed to present at the San Ysidro or Calexico port of entry.⁶

In addition to the sheer number of similarly situated individuals, courts may consider geographic dispersion of putative class members, financial resources of putative class members, and the ability of putative class members to file individual lawsuits, in determining the impracticability of joinder. *See McCluskey v. Trs. of Red Dot Corp. Emp. Stock Ownership Plan & Tr.*, 268 F.R.D. 670, 674 (W.D. Wash.

⁶ TRAC, *Details on MPP (Remain in Mexico) Deportation Proceedings* (Sept. 2020), *available at* https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/mpp/ (filters set to "Hearing Location" and "Outcome"); *see* Qureshi Decl. ¶¶ 4-5.

2010); see also Fraihat v. U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, 445 F. Supp. 3d 709, 737 (C.D. Cal. 2020) (holding that "obstacles to accessing counsel" impeding individual class members from proceeding on their own weighed in favor of finding joinder impracticable); Rodriguez v. Hayes, 591 F.3d 1105, 1123 (9th Cir. 2010) (finding numerosity satisfied, in part, because of "the severe practical concerns that would likely attend [prospective immigrant class members] were they forced to proceed alone").

Class members' precarious living situations in Mexico make joinder of their claims impracticable. Class members lack stable living conditions and employment, and struggle to fulfill their basic needs and those of their family members. See Daniel Doe Decl. ¶¶ 9-11, 21, 29 (works six days a week to pay for a room that he shares with his daughter; unable to afford follow-up tests for her severe chronic pain); Hannah Doe Decl. ¶¶ 3, 27-28 (has lived in a salon since she lost her job and cannot afford treatment for cervical spine injury); Jessica Doe Decl. ¶¶ 6, 8-9, 11 (had to leave her job after cartels attempted to kidnap her son; her family has lived in crowded shelters and different temporary accommodations); Benjamin Doe Decl. ¶¶ 15-20 (with his family of five, lived in a shelter so crowded that he would wait 90 minutes for a shower; had to wait a week for a volunteer doctor when his son contracted chicken pox); Anthony Doe Decl. ¶¶ 6-10 (struggled to find steady employment; his current job does not pay enough to cover rent, so he lives in a church); Jaqueline Doe Decl. ¶¶ 19-22, 24-26, 55-57 (has had to survive on oats for days at a time and go without medication); Nicholas Doe Decl. ¶ 15 (police confiscated the oranges he tried to sell; has not found a steady source of income); Feliza Doe Decl. ¶¶ 13, 36, 37-38 (cannot continue to afford the shelter expenses for herself and her daughters; often cannot afford food for both her children and herself); see also Berlin Decl. ¶ 25 (noting lack of employment opportunities for asylum seekers subject to MPP, who lack work

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authorization); Declaration of Adam Isacson ("Isacson Decl.") ¶¶ 11-16 (describing the shelter system in Mexico as "chaos").

Moreover, class members do not speak English, have struggled or failed to locate legal counsel, and lack the ability to consistently or reliably engage with legal representatives. See Daniel Doe Decl. ¶¶ 13, 15, 29; Hannah Doe Decl. ¶¶ 14, 16, 21, 29; Benjamin Doe Decl. ¶ 9; Jessica Doe Decl. ¶ 12; Anthony Doe Decl. ¶¶ 15-20; Jaqueline Doe Decl. ¶¶ 33-34; Nicholas Doe Decl. ¶¶ 8-9; Feliza Doe Decl. ¶ 22; see also Declaration of Kennji Kizuka ("Kizuka Decl.") ¶¶ 16, 19-20 (describing the dangers that prevent U.S. attorneys from representing clients in Mexico, the barriers to confidential attorney-client meetings in Mexico, and the risk of targeted violence that individuals subject to the Protocols take when they meet with attorneys in Mexico); Berlin Decl. ¶¶ 26-27 (describing barriers to access to counsel in Mexico, including lack of attorneys offering representation and challenges to communication); Isacson Decl. ¶ 28 (explaining that the logistical challenges of travel to Mexico, substantial personal risk of harm, and border closures dissuade U.S. attorneys from taking cases for individuals subject to the Protocols); Declaration of Steven H. Schulman ¶ 8, 10-15 (describing the "significant and unprecedented obstacles" that largely prevent pro bono representation of cases in Mexico).

Finally, although class members have all presented or been directed to present at the San Ysidro port of entry in Tijuana, they are geographically dispersed throughout Baja California, Mexico. While some live in Tijuana, *see*, *e.g.*, Daniel Doe Decl. ¶ 9; Hannah Doe Decl. ¶ 10; Benjamin Doe Decl. ¶ 24, others live in Mexicali, which is over 100 miles east of Tijuana over a dangerous mountain road, *see* Feliza Doe Decl. ¶ 9.

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B. Plaintiffs' Claims Present Questions of Law or Fact Common to the Class.

Rule 23(a) requires a showing that there are "questions of law or fact common to the class." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2). This requirement "has been construed permissively." *Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011, 1019 (9th Cir. 1998), *overruled on other grounds by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Dukes*, 564 U.S. 338 (2011). "What matters to class certification . . . is not the raising of common questions—even in droves—but rather, the capacity of a class-wide proceeding to generate common *answers* apt to drive the resolution of the litigation." *Wal-Mart*, 564 U.S. at 350 (internal quotation marks omitted).

Thus, Plaintiffs need not show that all questions of law and fact are common to the proposed class to satisfy Rule 23(a). Ellis v. Costco Wholesale Corp., 657 F.3d 970, 981 (9th Cir. 2011). Instead, commonality requires plaintiffs to demonstrate that their claims "depend upon a common contention . . . [whose] truth or falsity will resolve an issue that is central to the validity of each one of the claims in one stroke." Wal-Mart, 564 U.S. at 350. Commonality can be satisfied by a single common issue. See, e.g., Abdullah v. U.S. Sec. Assocs., Inc., 731 F.3d 952, 957 (9th Cir. 2013) (commonality "does not . . . mean that *every* question of law or fact must be common to the class; all that Rule 23(a)(2) requires is a single *significant* question of law or fact" (internal quotation marks omitted)); see also Nak Kim Chhoeun v. Marin, No. SACV 17-1878-CJC, 2018 WL 6265014, at *5 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 14, 2018) (commonality satisfied where "[t]he central question in [the] case is whether the Government's policy of revoking proposed class members' release and re-detaining them without any procedural protections is unlawful"); Inland Empire-Immigrant Youth Collective, 2018 WL 1061408, at *8 (commonality satisfied where plaintiffs "challenge[d] Defendants' common termination policies and practices as categorically violating the APA and Due Process Clause—not the agency's ultimate exercise of discretion with respect to each recipient" (citation and internal quotation marks omitted)).

Plaintiffs are not required to demonstrate uniformity in the scope and nature of the harms caused by Defendants' policies. Courts have made clear that even "[w]here the circumstances of each particular class member vary but retain a common core of factual or legal issues with the rest of the class, commonality exists." Evon v. Law Offices of Sidney Mickell, 688 F.3d 1015, 1029 (9th Cir. 2012) (citation and internal quotation marks omitted); see also Walters v. Reno, 145 F.3d 1032, 1046 (9th Cir. 1998) ("Differences among the class members with respect to the merits of their actual document fraud cases, however, are simply insufficient to defeat the propriety of class certification. What makes the plaintiffs' claims suitable for a class action is the common allegation that the INS's procedures provide insufficient notice."); Arnott v. U.S. Citizenship & Immigr. Servs., 290 F.R.D. at 575, 86–87 (C.D. Cal. 2012) (factual variations did not defeat certification where core legal issues were similar). In fact, courts have found commonality despite factual differences in application of a policy or potential individual outcomes. See Hernandez, 2016 WL 7116611, at *19 (granting certification in challenge to U.S. immigration officials' policies and practices surrounding bond requirements for detainees even though outcome of individual bond cases would depend on the facts of each case); Lyon v. Immigration & Customs Enf't, 300 F.R.D. 628, 642 (N.D. Cal. 2014) (holding that the fact that a policy limiting access to counsel is enforced in a less than uniform manner does not negate a finding of commonality).

For plaintiffs seeking injunctive and declaratory relief, commonality is satisfied "where the lawsuit challenges a system-wide practice or policy that affects all of the putative class members." *Unknown Parties v. Johnson*, 163 F. Supp. 3d 630, 635 (D. Ariz. 2016) (quoting *Armstrong v. Davis*, 275 F.3d 849, 868 (9th Cir. 2001) *abrogated on other grounds by Johnson v. California*, 543 U.S. 499 (2005). Such suits "by their

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very nature often present common questions satisfying Rule 23(a)(2)." 7A Charles A. Wright, Arthur R. Miller, & Mary K. Kane, *Federal Practice & Procedure* § 1763 (3d ed. 2019).

Plaintiffs readily satisfy Rule 23(a)(2)'s commonality requirement. This case presents questions of law common to the class as a whole, including: (1) whether Defendants violated class members' right to apply for asylum by trapping them in Mexico under dangerous conditions in a manner that obstructs their access to the U.S. asylum system; (2) whether Defendants' continued implementation of the Return Policy notwithstanding the indefinite suspension of MPP hearings pursuant to the Hearing Suspension Directive violates the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, Pub. L. No. 82-414 (INA); (3) whether the Return Policy and/or Deprivation of Counsel Policy violate class members' statutory or constitutional rights to access counsel; (4) whether the Return Policy and/or Deprivation of Counsel Policy violate class members' First Amendment rights; (5) whether the Return Policy and/or Deprivation of Counsel Policy violate class members' right to a full and fair hearing; and (6) whether the Return Policy and/or Presentation Requirement violate class members' substantive due process rights.

Class members' shared legal claims turn on a common core of facts and a common injury. Through the Return Policy, Defendants have forced class members to await their immigration court hearings in dangerous zones in Mexico. *See*, *e.g.*, Daniel Doe Decl. ¶ 28 (must stay near the port of entry in Tijuana because he has no other connections in Mexico and because buses do not run early enough to arrive at the port of entry at 3:00 am to present for his hearing); Feliza Doe Decl. ¶¶ 42-43 (must stay in Mexicali because she would otherwise not have a way to get to her hearings). Class members in these dangerous zones have either experienced violence or live in fear of it. *See* Jaqueline Doe Decl. ¶¶ 49-54 (threatened and assaulted due to her trans identity); Benjamin Doe Decl. ¶¶ 19, 22 (cartel members attempted to kidnap his son;

his children are traumatized by surrounding violence); Jessica Doe Decl. ¶ 10-11, 16 (cartel members attempted to kidnap her son); Hannah Doe Decl. ¶¶ 9, 13, 15, 28, 30 (robbed walking home from the shift she was able to get at night; subsequently subject to a break-in and attempted rape in her apartment); Feliza Doe Decl. ¶ 26, 39-40, 46-47 (fears for her daughters' safety because a young girl was sexually assaulted at the shelter where they live); Daniel Doe Decl. ¶¶ 12, 14, 19, 22-24, 27 (fears for his daughter's safety after an attempted robbery and prohibits her from leaving the house); Anthony Doe Decl. ¶¶ 7, 9, 11-13 (has been robbed three times; on the third occasion, the assailants threatened to kill him); Nicholas Doe Decl. ¶¶ 13-14, 16-18 (bullets shot into the shelter where he was staying; since moving, he has been threatened, robbed, and extorted by the police). In addition to the risk of physical violence, class members are in danger because they and their family members are unable to fulfill their basic needs in Mexico. See Daniel Doe Decl. ¶¶ 7, 9-11, 21, 29, 31 (stating that he has struggled to find work to pay for basic expenses and is unable to pay for a medical exam to treat his daughter's chronic condition); Hannah Doe Decl. ¶¶ 5, 11, 28 (describing her inability to find stable work to pay for shelter and medical needs); Benjamin Doe Decl. ¶¶ 15-18, 20-21 (describing his inability to find work to pay for adequate housing and his family's unfit living conditions, including two months without reliable running water); Jessica Doe Decl. ¶¶ 6-9, 11 (describing significant difficulty of obtaining work permit in Mexico); Anthony Doe Decl. ¶¶ 5-6, 8-10, 20, 30-31 (stating that he is unable to find work to pay for housing other than at a church, where he lives with other asylum seekers and does not receive adequate food); Feliza Doe Decl. ¶¶ 11-13, 36-38 (describing inability to pay for sufficient food, water, clothing, and medicine for her young daughters); Jaqueline Doe Decl. ¶¶ 7-9, 19-20, 22, 25-26, 33, 46, 55, 57 (describing having slept on the street for days at a time and ongoing inability to consistently make enough money to pay for medicine, food, water,

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electricity, and housing); Nicholas Doe Decl. ¶¶ 13-15 (describing difficulty of finding work without a work permit).

Moreover, class members' immigration court hearings have been indefinitely postponed under the Hearing Suspension Directive, *see* Daniel Doe Decl. ¶ 20; Hannah Doe Decl. ¶¶ 24-25; Benjamin Doe Decl. ¶¶ 13; Jessica Doe Decl. ¶¶ 14; Anthony Doe Decl. ¶¶ 25-29; Nicholas Doe Decl. ¶¶ 10-12; Feliza Doe Decl. ¶¶ 28-29, which means that their struggle to survive will also continue indefinitely.

Through the Return Policy and the Deprivation of Counsel Policy, Defendants have interfered with, and in some cases completely obstructed, class members' access to legal representation. See Hannah Doe Decl. ¶¶ 14, 20-21, 29 (describing inability to locate pro bono legal service provider able to assist people outside the United. States); Anthony Doe Decl. ¶¶ 15-18 (stating that he has been unable to locate an attorney willing to represent him while in Mexico and so has been forced to rely on YouTube videos to represent himself). The list of free or low-cost legal service providers that the government provides to class members consists primarily of organizations that do not provide representation to individuals subject to the Protocols. Declaration of Luis Gonzalez ("Gonzalez Decl.") ¶ 13. As a result, class members spend their limited resources contacting providers who cannot assist them. See id.; Jaqueline Doe Decl. ¶¶ 33-34 (bought a phone plan and spent a significant amount of money attempting to call legal service providers in the U.S. who could not or would not represent individuals subject to the Protocols). Moreover, Defendants' Deprivation of Counsel Policy unnecessarily limits class members' access to legal consultations in the United States. Compl. ¶¶ 73-83.

Defendants' Return Policy also impedes class members' communications with legal service providers in the United States. Class members generally do not have reliable access to telephone or internet service, which means that even those who are represented are unable to communicate meaningfully or reliably with their legal

representatives. See, e.g., Daniel Doe Decl. ¶ 29 (explaining that he cannot always afford the phone minutes or internet credits required to speak with his attorney); Nicholas Doe Decl. ¶ 9 (describing losing cell phone connection during calls with his attorney); Feliza Doe Decl. ¶¶ 30-33 (explaining that poor cell phone connection means that calls with her attorney often drop and she must repeat traumatic details of her story, and describing the time-consuming process of sending voluminous documents through WhatsApp). Class members also lack access to private spaces in Mexico where they can have confidential conversations with legal representatives. See, e.g., Daniel Doe Decl. ¶¶ 30, 32 (does not have confidential space away from his daughter to speak to his attorney); Hannah Doe Decl. ¶¶ 22, 29 (no access to a space where she can speak freely on the phone); see also Benjamin Doe Decl. ¶ 26; Jessica Doe Decl. ¶ 15; Feliza Doe Decl. ¶¶ 30-31. The absence of private spaces leads individuals to withhold information that they are afraid to share within earshot of others and impedes trust-building between legal representatives and their clients. See Daniel Doe Decl. ¶¶ 30-32 (stating that communicating with his attorney by phone is difficult, expensive, and prevents him from discussing sensitive matters relevant to his case); Benjamin Doe Decl. ¶ 27 (noting reluctance to discuss personal matters over the phone with his attorney, whom he has never met in person); Jessica Doe Decl. ¶ 15 (stating that she does not want to discuss sensitive topics in front of her children); Feliza Doe Decl. ¶ 31 (stating that the lack of private space to speak with her attorney hinders her ability to speak freely); see also Cargioli Decl. ¶¶ 19-26 (detailing various obstructions to meeting and speaking with clients and potential clients); Gonzalez Decl. ¶¶ 33-38 (same).

Defendants' Return Policy also thwarts class members' meaningful access to the asylum process in other ways. *See* Daniel Doe Decl. ¶¶ 29, 31 (describing the difficulty of collecting evidence); Anthony Doe Decl. ¶¶ 16, 21 (could not understand or complete the asylum application, which is in English, when the judge instructed

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him to do so); Benjamin Doe Decl. ¶¶ 25, 26 (not always able to pay for the phone calls necessary to collect evidence); Jessica Doe Decl. ¶ 15 (shares a cell phone with her husband so cannot communicate with her attorney unless her husband is home); Nicholas Doe Decl. ¶ 9 (uncomfortable sharing sensitive topics over the phone with his attorney); Feliza Doe Decl. ¶¶ 34-35 (has not received mail sent from Guatemala six months ago and cannot read the documents over WhatsApp); Jaqueline Doe Decl. ¶¶ 40, 46 (deprived of her opportunity to present for her hearing).

Class members' shared core facts ensure consistent judicial findings regarding the legality of the challenged policies and practices. Should Plaintiffs prevail, all class members will benefit—each will be allowed to return to the United States, with appropriate precautionary public health measures, and to pursue their asylum claim from inside the United States. In other words, class members "have suffered the same injury," and that injury is "capable of classwide resolution." *Wal-Mart*, 564 U.S. at 350 (quoting *Gen. Tel. Co. of Sw. v. Falcon*, 457 U.S. 147, 157 (1982)). Any factual differences that may exist among class members are immaterial to their core claim that the Protocols, including the Return Policy, the Deprivation of Counsel Policy, and the Presentation Requirement, exceed Defendants' authority under the INA and violate the APA, the First Amendment, or the Fifth Amendment.

C. Individual Plaintiffs' Claims Are Typical of the Claims of Class Members.

Rule 23(a)(3) requires that "the claims . . . of the representative parties [be] typical of the claims . . . of the class." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3). The purpose of this requirement is to "assure that the interest of the named representative aligns with the interests of [the] class." Wiener v. Dannon Co., 255 F.R.D. 658, 665 (C.D. Cal. 2009) (quoting Hanon v. Dataproducts Corp., 976 F.2d 497, 508 (9th Cir. 1992)). "[T]he typicality requirement is permissive and requires only that the representative's claims are reasonably coextensive with those of absent class members; they need not be

substantially identical." *Rodriguez v. Hayes*, 591 F.3d 1105, 1124 (9th Cir. 2010) (citation and internal quotation marks omitted). "The test of typicality is 'whether other members [of the class] have the same or similar injury, whether the action is based on conduct which is not unique to the named plaintiffs, and whether other class members have been injured by the same course of conduct." *Parsons v. Ryan*, 754 F.3d 657, 685 (9th Cir. 2014) (citation omitted). Typicality is satisfied "when each class member's claim arises from the same course of events, and each class member makes similar legal arguments to prove the defendant's liability." *Rodriguez*, 591 F.3d at 1124; *see also id.* (finding typicality satisfied because "though Petitioner and some of the other members of the proposed class are detained under different statutes and are at different points in the removal process . . . they . . . raise similar constitutionally-based arguments and are alleged victims of the same practice of prolonged detention while in immigration proceedings").

Individual Plaintiffs satisfy Rule 23(a)(3)'s typicality requirement. Defendants subjected all Individual Plaintiffs and class members to the Migrant Protection Protocols, including the Return Policy, the Deprivation of Counsel Policy, and the Presentation Requirement. As a result, Individual Plaintiffs and all class members have suffered the same harms—namely, denial of the right to apply for asylum; denial of meaningful access to legal assistance; denial of the right to hire and consult an attorney and petition the courts, denial of the right to a full and fair hearing, and denial of their substantive due process rights. Compl. ¶¶ 118-206; *see Parsons*, 754 F.3d at 685. And all class members raise the same legal claims arising from those harms: violations of the INA, 8 U.S.C. § 1158(a); 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(C); the Administrative Procedure Act; the First Amendment, and the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment. Compl. ¶¶ 250-81, 288-93, 293-300, 319-33.

In addition, the experiences of the Individual Plaintiffs typify those of other class members. All class members fled persecution in their home countries to seek

asylum in the United States. All were returned to Mexico under the Protocols after entering the United States via the U.S.-Mexico border. Daniel Doe Decl. ¶¶ 6-7. Jessica Doe Decl. ¶¶ 3-5; Nicholas Doe Decl. ¶¶ 5-6; Feliza Doe Decl. ¶¶ 6, 9; Anthony Doe Decl. ¶ 5; Hannah Doe Decl. ¶¶ 5, 10. And all are currently trapped in Mexico where they have experienced or are at high risk of violent crime, struggle to access basic needs, and confront significant barriers to accessing legal representation. *See supra* Section III(B).

Because these common harms arise from the same course of conduct by Defendants, in violation of the same constitutional and statutory protections, the Individual Plaintiffs' claims typify the claims of the Class Members. And as with commonality, any factual differences between the harms suffered by the Individual Plaintiffs and the Class Members are not sufficiently material to defeat typicality. *See Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1020 (under "permissive" typicality standard, representative claims need only be "reasonably co-extensive with those of absent class members; they need not be substantially identical"); *Fraihat*, 445 F. Supp. 3d at 739 (holding that the availability of individualized habeas relief to class members did not bar a finding of typicality); *LaDuke v. Nelson*, 762 F.2d 1318, 1332 (9th Cir. 1985) ("The minor differences in the manner in which the representative's Fourth Amendment rights were violated does not render their claims atypical of those of the class.").

D. Individual Plaintiffs Will Fairly and Adequately Protect the Interests of the Proposed Class.

Rule 23(a)(4) requires that "the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class." "To satisfy the adequacy of representation requirement, [Plaintiffs] must show (1) that the putative named plaintiffs have the ability and the incentive to represent the claims of the class vigorously; (2) that the named plaintiffs have obtained adequate counsel, and (3) that there is no conflict between the named plaintiffs' claims and those asserted on behalf of the class." *Torres*

v. Milusnic, — F. Supp. 3d —No. CV 20-4450-CBM-PVC(x), 2020 WL 4197285, at *22 (C.D. Cal. July 14, 2020) (citing Lerwill v. Inflight Motion Pictures, Inc., 582 F.2d 507, 512 (9th Cir. 1978). Plaintiffs have met all these requirements.

First, Individual Plaintiffs have the ability and incentive to vigorously prosecute their claims because each of them faces severe harm or an imminent threat of severe harm in Mexico—including physical injury, kidnapping or death—unless they obtain the relief sought. *See supra* Section III(B). Individual Plaintiffs have also been deprived of access to basic needs for themselves and their family members. *See id*. They each likewise have encountered substantial difficulty in identifying, retaining and consulting with legal representatives who can assist them in applying for asylum, parole, and other relief. *See id*.

Second, Individual Plaintiffs are represented by counsel with experience in litigating similar class actions. They are represented by attorneys from the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, Innovation Law Lab, and Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP. Each of these organizations has a demonstrated commitment to protecting the rights and interests of noncitizens and substantial experience handling complex class action litigation in the immigration arena. *See* Declaration of Sirine Shebaya ("Shebaya Decl.") ¶¶ 5-9; Declaration of Angel Tang Nakamura ("Nakamura Decl.") ¶¶ 4-5; Declaration of Stephen W. Manning ("Manning Decl.") ¶¶ 9, 11, 12; Declaration of Melissa Crow ("Crow Decl.") ¶¶ 3, 4, 10. Counsel have represented numerous classes of noncitizens and other victims of systemic government misconduct in actions in which they successfully obtained class relief. *See* Shebaya Decl. ¶¶ 5-9; Nakamura Decl. ¶¶ 4-6; Manning Decl. ¶¶ 9, 11-12; Crow Decl. ¶ 5.

Third, and finally, Individual Plaintiffs have no interests adverse to the other class members. Both Individual Plaintiffs and members of the class seek to enter the United States so that they may live safely, provide for their basic needs, and access

legal assistance in order to meaningfully exercise their right to apply for asylum. None of those interests is antagonistic to any other; thus, there are no conflicts that would preclude any Individual Plaintiff from adequately representing the interests of other class members.

E. Separately, Rule 23(B)(2) is Satisfied Because Defendants Have Acted or Refused To Act On Grounds That Are Generally Applicable To The Class.

The class may be certified under Rule 23(b)(2) because Defendants have "acted or refused to act on grounds that apply generally to the class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate respecting the class as a whole." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). "The primary role of [Rule 23(b)(2)] has always been the certification of civil rights class actions." *Parsons*, 754 F.3d at 686. The central question in certifying a Rule 23(b)(2) class is "the indivisible nature of the injunctive and declaratory remedy warranted—the notion that the conduct is such that it can be enjoined or declared unlawful only as to all of the class members or as to none of them." *Wal-Mart*, 564 U.S. at 360 (citation omitted). Thus, certification under Rule 23(b)(2) is appropriate where the defendant "has acted in a consistent manner towards members of the class so that [its] actions may be viewed as part of a pattern of activity, or has established or acted pursuant to a regulatory scheme common to all class members." *Westways World Travel, Inc. v. AMR Corp.*, 218 F.R.D. 223, 240 (C.D. Cal. 2003) (citation omitted).

Here, Plaintiffs allege that Defendants are acting on grounds that "apply generally to the class" by subjecting class members to the same set of policies and practices pursuant to the Migrant Protection Protocols. These uniform policies and practices apply or will apply to all members of the proposed class. Although there may be factual differences between the circumstances of each class member, Rule 23(b)(2) asks "only . . . whether class members seek uniform relief from a practice applicable to all of them." *Rodriguez*, 591 F.3d at 1125. That is the case here:

Plaintiffs seek only injunctive and declaratory relief to remedy systemic violations of class members' statutory and constitutional rights. These remedies do not require individualized determinations of eligibility for relief and would "provide relief to all class members, or to none of them." *Fraihat*, 445 F. Supp. 3d at 741 (rejecting argument that detention of class members under different conditions and at different facilities precluded class certification).

Nor do factual differences between class members preclude certification. Any factual differences between the experiences of individual class members are minor. See supra Section III(A)-(C). And since Plaintiffs seek uniform relief from a uniformly applicable practice, certification is warranted even where some class members "have suffered . . . different injuries from the challenged practice." Rodriguez, 591 F.3d at 1125; Unknown Parties, 163 F. Supp. 3d at 643 (rejecting argument that plaintiffs were "challeng[ing] . . . various practices amongst [multiple] facilities," because plaintiffs identified the "systemic nature of the conditions" at CBP detention facilities) (internal quotation marks omitted). Indeed, even if such claims "may involve some individualized inquiries," the relevant question for purposes of Rule 23(b)(2) is "the 'indivisible' nature of the claim alleged and the relief sought." Ms. L. v. ICE, 331 F.R.D. 528, 541 (S.D. Cal. 2018) (certifying Rule 23(b)(2) class); Lyon v. ICE, 308 F.R.D. 203, 214 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (rejecting argument that ICE facilities had different attributes, because "these differences do not negate the fact that Plaintiffs seek relief that is applicable to . . . the entire class"); Saravia v. Sessions, 280 F. Supp. 3d 1168, 1205 (N.D. Cal. 2017) (Rule 23(b)(2) satisfied "[b]ecause a single injunction can protect all class members' procedural due process rights").

Therefore, Plaintiffs' Rule 23(b)(2) class should be certified.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court should certify the proposed provisional class.

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1 2 Dated: November 9, 2020 ARNOLD & PORTER KAYE SCHOLER LLP 3 By: /s/ Angel Tang Nakamura 4 ANGEL TANG NAKAMURA HANNAH R. COLEMAN 5 JOHN A. FREEDMAN CAROLINE D. KELLY 6 EMILY REEDER-RICCHETTI 7 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 8 9 Dated: November 9, 2020 SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER 10 11 By: /s/ Melissa Crow MELISSA CROW 12 **GRACIE WILLIS** 13 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 14 15 Dated: November 9, 2020 NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD 16 17 By: /s/ Sirine Shebaya SIRINE SHEBAYA 18 MATTHEW VOGEL AMBER QURESHI 19 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 20 21 Dated: November 9, 2020 INNOVATION LAW LAB 22 23 By: /s/ Stephen W. Manning STEPHEN W. MANNING 24 JORDAN CUNNINGS KELSEY PROVO 25 TESS HELLGREN 26 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 27 28 22

MEMORANDUM ISO PLAINTIFFS' EMERGENCY MOTION FOR PROVISIONAL CLASS CERTIFICATION

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA **EASTERN DIVISION** 10 11 12 IMMIGRANT DEFENDERS LAW Case No. 2:20-cv-09893-JGB-SHK CENTER, et al., 13 **PROPOSEDI ORDER** Plaintiffs, 14 v. 15 PROVISIONAL CLASS CHAD WOLF, et al., CERTIFICATION 16 Defendants. Honorable Jesus G. Bernal Judge: 17 Crtrm: 18 19 20 21 Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and a class of those similarly situated, have 22 moved for an order (1) provisionally certifying a class pursuant to Federal Rule of 23 Civil Procedure 23; (2) appointing Daniel Doe, Hannah Doe, Benjamin Doe, Jessica 24 Doe, Anthony Doe, Nicholas Doe, Feliza Doe, and Jaqueline Doe as class representatives; and (3) appointing Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP, Southern 25 Poverty Law Center, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, 26 and Innovation Law Lab as class counsel. 27 28