

**[ORAL ARGUMENT NOT SCHEDULED]****Nos. 25-5144, 25-5145**

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**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT**

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PATSY WIDAKUSWARA, *et al.*  
Plaintiffs-Appellees,  
v.  
KARI LAKE, *et al.*  
Defendants-Appellants.

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MICHAEL ABRAMOWITZ, *et al.*  
Plaintiffs-Appellees,  
v.  
KARI LAKE, *et al.*  
Defendants-Appellants.

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On Appeal from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

Nos. 25-cv-1015-RCL, 25-cv-887-RCL

Hon. Royce C. Lamberth, U.S. District Judge

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***WIDAKUSWARA* PLAINTIFFS-APPELLEES'  
MOTION TO EXPEDITE APPEAL**

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Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 27, Plaintiffs-Appellees in *Widakuswara v. Lake*, Case No. 25-5144, respectfully move to expedite this appeal pursuant to the schedule proposed below. In support of this motion, Plaintiffs-Appellees state as follows:

On April 22, 2025, the district court entered a three-part preliminary injunction, requiring Defendants-Appellants to:

- 1) take all necessary steps to return USAGM employees and contractors to their status prior to the March 14, 2025 Executive Order 14238, “Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy,” including by restoring all USAGM employees and personal service contractors, who were placed on leave or terminated, to their status prior to March 14, 2025;
- 2) restore the FY 2025 grants with USAGM Networks Radio Free Asia and Middle East Broadcasting Networks such that international USAGM outlets can ‘provide news which is consistently reliable and authoritative, accurate, objective, and comprehensive,’ 22 U.S.C. § 6202(a), (b), and , to that end, provide monthly status reports on the first day of each month apprising the Court of the status of the defendants’ compliance with this Order, including documentation sufficient to show the disbursement to RFA and MBN of the funds Congress appropriated; and
- 3) restore VOA programming such that USAGM fulfills its statutory mandate that VOA ‘serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news,’ 22 U.S.C. § 6202(c).

Add. 1-2 to Defendants-Appellants’ Emergency Motion for an Administrative Stay and Partial Stay Pending Appeal.

On April 25, Defendants-Appellants filed their notice of appeal and moved this Court to stay parts (1) and (2) of the district court’s preliminary injunction pending appeal. This Court granted that motion on May 3. The en banc Court then

administratively stayed the stay of part (2) of the preliminary injunction on May 7. That administrative stay remains in place. Then, on May 22, the en banc Court declined to rehear the stay of part (1) of the preliminary injunction. Part (1) of Plaintiffs-Appellees' preliminary injunction thus remains stayed pending this Court's resolution of the merits of Defendants-Appellants' appeal.

Expedition is required to “minimize possible harm to the parties or the public” as a result of the Court's stay of part (1) of the preliminary injunction. *See* D.C. Circuit Handbook of Practice and Internal Operating Procedures § VIII.B (Dec. 12, 2204). After part (1) of the preliminary injunction was stayed, Defendants-Appellants terminated nearly 600 contractors at USAGM on May 15. Moreover, on March 25, immediately before a temporary restraining order was entered in this case, Defendants-Appellants officially notified the labor union plaintiffs in this case that Defendants-Appellants planned to imminently terminate nearly 600 full-time employees of USAGM, and that they would do so by issuing reduction-in-force notices to individual employees with only 60 days' notice before those terminations become effective. If Defendants-Appellants proceed with their proposed reduction-in-force—which there is every indication that they will, since they have never withdrawn the notice they provided to the unions—those terminations could be effective before this Court resolves the appeal.

It is in Defendants-Appellants' interest to expedite consideration of the appeal as well. After part (2) of the preliminary injunction was administratively reinstated by this Court sitting en banc, Defendants-Appellants paid millions of dollars in grant money in compliance with that provision—and they will continue to be obligated to do so on a monthly basis so long as that provision remains unstayed. It is therefore in the parties' collective interest that this appeal be resolved expeditiously.

For these reasons, Plaintiffs-Appellees respectfully request that this Court set the following briefing schedule to resolve this appeal before the end of July. Defendants-Appellants' opening brief would be due June 18; Plaintiffs-Appellees would respond by July 3; and any reply would be due July 10. Counsel would request and be available for a hearing thereafter in July.

Defendants-Appellants do not oppose expediting the appeal, but oppose the specific schedule Plaintiffs-Appellees propose, as well as Plaintiffs-Appellees' request that this Court resolve the case in July. Defendants-Appellants did not accept Plaintiffs-Appellees' offer to stipulate to Defendants-Appellants' preferred schedule in exchange for Defendants-Appellants' promise to not finally effectuate reductions in force pending the resolution of the appeal on the merits.

Dated: May 27, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

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<sup>1</sup> The views expressed herein do not purport to represent the institutional views of Yale Law School, if any.

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

This brief complies with Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 27(d)(2)(A) because it contains 687 words. This brief also complies with Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(a)(5) and (6) because it was prepared using Times New Roman, a proportionally spaced typeface.

Dated: May 27, 2025

*s/Daniel M. Eisenberg*  
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