

# Status of Current DACA Litigation

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On September 5, 2017, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the government was terminating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program. That same day, then-Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke issued a [memorandum](#) directing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to reject all initial DACA applications and associated applications for work authorization received after Sep. 5, 2017; to reject all renewal applications after Oct. 5, 2017, from current DACA recipients whose status expired between Sep. 5, 2017, and March 5, 2018; and to reject all other renewal applications from DACA recipients.<sup>1</sup>

In the days and months following, multiple lawsuits challenging the Trump administration's actions to terminate DACA were filed across the country. Two U.S. district courts have since enjoined, or halted, the government's termination of DACA and required U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to continue accepting DACA applications from individuals who have previously had DACA. A third U.S. district court has ordered the government to follow its original 2012 policy of not sharing DACA recipients' private information for enforcement purposes, and a fourth U.S. district court (in the District of Columbia) has twice issued orders striking down the termination of DACA and reinstating the original program. However, the court in DC partially "stayed" its order that vacated the Trump administration's termination of the DACA program.<sup>2</sup> This stay postpones the effective date of portions of the court's order that would require USCIS to accept DACA applications regardless of whether the applicants previously had DACA.

On May 1, 2018, Texas and six other states filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas challenging the 2012 DACA program itself. On May 2, the plaintiffs asked the court to issue a preliminary injunction that would stop USCIS from adjudicating applications for deferred action under DACA while the lawsuit is pending. After an August 8, 2018, hearing in Houston, Tex., on whether to grant a preliminary injunction, the court denied the plaintiff states' request, concluding that such an injunction would not be in the public's interest. As a result, it continues to be the case that individuals who have or have previously had DACA can apply to renew it.

This issue brief summarizes the current status primarily of (1) lawsuits filed in federal court in California, collectively known as *Regents of the University of California v. Department of Homeland Security*, (2) two lawsuits filed in federal court in New York, *Batalla Vidal v. Nielsen*

<sup>1</sup> Memorandum from Elaine C. Duke, Acting Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, to James W. McCament, Acting Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, et al., re. Rescission of the June 15, 2012 Memorandum Entitled "Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children," Sep. 5, 2017, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/09/05/memorandum-rescission-daca>.

<sup>2</sup> A stay is a court order that halts further legal proceedings or the enforcement of orders in a case until the stay is either removed or made permanent.

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and *State of New York v. Trump*, (3) a lawsuit filed in federal court in Maryland, *CASA de Maryland v. Trump*, (4) two lawsuits filed in federal court in Washington, DC, *NAACP v. Trump* and *Trustees of Princeton University v. Trump*, and (5) the lawsuit filed by Texas and six other states challenging the 2012 DACA program itself, *Texas, et al. v. Nielsen, et al.*

### Regents of the University of California, et al. v. Department of Homeland Security, et al.<sup>3</sup>

On January 9, 2018, Judge William Alsup of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California issued a [preliminary injunction](#) requiring the federal government to maintain the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program on a nationwide basis by allowing individuals to submit applications to renew their enrollment in DACA, subject to a few exceptions.<sup>4</sup> Generally, parties objecting to a district court's order must wait until the litigation is completed before asking the court of appeals for review.<sup>5</sup> However, a preliminary injunction order is immediately appealable (a process referred to as an "interlocutory appeal"), meaning that the government can ask the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to review Judge Alsup's order immediately.<sup>6</sup>

***The Supreme Court denies the government's first request for unusual "cert. before judgment" review.*** In this case, however, the government took the unusual step of seeking to skip review in the Ninth Circuit and instead appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court through a rarely used legal mechanism called "[cert. before judgment](#)."<sup>7</sup> The government filed its request, or [petition for certiorari](#), with the Supreme Court on Jan. 18, 2018.<sup>8</sup> This kind of request is rarely granted, as Supreme Court rules warn that the Court will grant this kind of early review only "upon a showing that the case is of such imperative public importance as to justify deviation from normal appellate practice and to require immediate determination in this Court."<sup>9</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The California litigation includes five cases that were consolidated before Judge William Alsup in the Northern District of California: *Regents of the University of California, et al. v. Dep't of Homeland Security, et al.*, No. 3:17-cv-05211; *State of California, et al. v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security, et al.*, No. 3:17-cv-05235; *City of San Jose v. Donald J. Trump, et al.*, No. 3:17-cv-05380; *Garcia, et al. v. United States of America, et al.*, No. 3:17-cv-05380; and *Cty. of Santa Clara, et al. v. Donald J. Trump, et al.*, No. 3:17-cv-05813.

<sup>4</sup> The preliminary injunction is available at [www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Regents-v-DHS-preliminary-injunction-2018-01-09.pdf](http://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Regents-v-DHS-preliminary-injunction-2018-01-09.pdf). For more information on it and its implications for DACA recipients, see *FAQ: USCIS Is Accepting DACA Renewal Applications* (NILC, last revised Jan. 16, 2018), [www.nilc.org/faq-uscis-accepting-daca-renewal-applications/](http://www.nilc.org/faq-uscis-accepting-daca-renewal-applications/); *USCIS and DACA Renewal Applications: What You Need to Know* (NILC, Jan. 14, 2018), [www.nilc.org/five-things-know-latest-uscis-announcement/](http://www.nilc.org/five-things-know-latest-uscis-announcement/); and *Alert: Court Orders the Dept. of Homeland Security to Allow Individuals with DACA to Apply to Renew It* (NILC, Jan. 10, 2018), [www.nilc.org/daca-preliminary-injunction-regents-v-dhs/](http://www.nilc.org/daca-preliminary-injunction-regents-v-dhs/).

<sup>5</sup> See 28 U.S.C. § 1291, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/28/1291>.

<sup>6</sup> See 28 U.S.C. § 1292(a), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/28/1292>.

<sup>7</sup> The petition for certiorari before judgment was filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2101(e), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/28/2101>, and 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/28/1254>. For an explanation of "cert. before judgment," see Kevin Russell, "Overview of Supreme Court's Cert. Before Judgment Practice," *SCOTUSblog*, Feb. 9, 2011, [www.scotusblog.com/2011/02/overview-of-supreme-court-s-cert-before-judgment-practice/](http://www.scotusblog.com/2011/02/overview-of-supreme-court-s-cert-before-judgment-practice/).

<sup>8</sup> Petition for writ of certiorari before judgment: [https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/17/17-1003/28381/20180119100226711\\_DACA%20Rule%2011%20Petition.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/17/17-1003/28381/20180119100226711_DACA%20Rule%2011%20Petition.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> See Supreme Court Rule 11, <https://www.supremecourt.gov/filingandrules/2017RulesoftheCourt.pdf>.

On Feb. 26, 2018, the Supreme Court [announced that it had “denied cert.”](#)<sup>10</sup> meaning that it declined to hear the government’s direct appeal from the district court. Therefore, the case will return to the lower courts, and appeals will be heard first by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In other words, although the Supreme Court could hear the case eventually, the appeals process will be the normal one, beginning with the court of appeals.

**Government continues to accept DACA renewal applications.** Although the government could have sought a stay of Judge Alsup’s preliminary injunction — i.e., while it could have asked the judge or the Supreme Court to allow the government to continue with its process of shutting down DACA<sup>11</sup> — it did not do so. Therefore, the government must continue to accept DACA renewal applications in accordance with the preliminary injunction.

**Other orders subject to appeal.** In the order issued on Jan. 9, Judge Alsup also ruled for the plaintiffs in holding that the decision to terminate DACA was reviewable by the courts under the Administrative Procedure Act because the decision was not committed to the agency’s discretion by law, as well as under the Immigration and Nationality Act. On Jan. 12, Judge Alsup issued an additional order that addresses the issue of whether the plaintiffs had pled enough facts to support additional legal claims. Usually, these kinds of intermediate orders in a case would not be directly appealable to the court of appeals, but Judge Alsup also granted the government’s request to appeal these portions of his January 9 decision and his January 12 decision to the Ninth Circuit through a special appeal mechanism that allows immediate appeals of intermediary orders.<sup>12</sup> The Ninth Circuit heard [oral argument](#) in the case on May 15, 2018, in Pasadena, Calif.<sup>13</sup>

**Government’s request to narrow the preliminary injunction.** On August 1, 2018, the Ninth Circuit, in an [unrelated case](#),<sup>14</sup> found that there was not sufficient support in the record for the district court to have issued an injunction that applied nationwide as opposed to limiting itself to California. The Ninth Circuit vacated the injunction in that case to the extent it applied outside of California and remanded the case back to the district court to further consider the appropriate scope of the injunction. In light of this case, on August 3, 2018, the federal government defendants in *Regents* wrote a letter to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, asking it to vacate the nationwide injunction requiring the government to continue processing DACA renewals, because the nationwide scope is not necessary to remedy the injuries of the plaintiffs in *Regents*.

**The government files a second request for the unusual “cert. before judgment” review.** In a rare move, on October 17, 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a letter with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals informing the court that the DOJ intended to seek certiorari from the Supreme Court if the Ninth Circuit did not issue its decision on the preliminary injunction appeal by October 31, 2018. The court of appeals did not issue a decision by that date. On November 5, 2018, the DOJ, for the *second* time in this case, filed for certiorari before judgment, seeking review by the Supreme Court of the preliminary injunction issued by U.S. District Court Judge Alsup. The DOJ also filed for certiorari before judgment in the related cases *Batalla Vidal* (New York) and *NAACP* (District of Columbia).

<sup>10</sup> See Supreme Court, Order List (Feb. 26, 2018),

[https://www.supremecourt.gov/orders/courtorders/022618zor\\_j426.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/orders/courtorders/022618zor_j426.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> See 28 U.S.C. § 2101(f), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/28/2101>.

<sup>12</sup> See 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b), <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/28/1292>.

<sup>13</sup> Video at [https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/media/view\\_video.php?pk\\_vid=0000013676](https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/media/view_video.php?pk_vid=0000013676).

<sup>14</sup> <http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2018/08/01/17-17478.pdf>.

On November 8, 2018, the Ninth Circuit issued a [decision](#) affirming the lawfulness of the preliminary injunction.<sup>15</sup> In its decision, the court reasoned that the plaintiffs in the case were likely to prevail on their claim that the Trump administration’s termination of DACA was “arbitrary and capricious” and therefore unlawful.

**To date, the preliminary injunction issued in *U.C. Regents* remains in effect, and DACA recipients are eligible to continue applying to renew their DACA.**

### **Batalla Vidal, et al. v. Nielsen, et al., and State of New York, et al. v. Trump, et al.**<sup>16</sup>

On Feb. 13, 2018, a U.S. district court in Brooklyn, New York, issued a second [preliminary injunction](#) requiring USCIS to accept DACA applications from people who have had DACA previously.<sup>17</sup> The preliminary injunction was the same in scope as the order from the U.S. district court in California. The court in New York held that there was a substantial likelihood that the plaintiffs would prevail on their claim that the Trump administration ended DACA in a way that was arbitrary and capricious, and therefore unlawful.

The order was issued in two lawsuits currently pending before Judge Nicholas Garaufis. The *Batalla Vidal* case was brought by six New Yorkers who had benefited from DACA and stood up to challenge the administration’s decision to end the program. The plaintiffs in that case are represented by NILC, along with the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization at Yale Law School and Make the Road New York. The *State of New York* case was brought by a coalition of seventeen attorneys general.<sup>18</sup>

The government has appealed the decision to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. The parties have now completed supplemental briefing and are tentatively scheduled for oral argument the week of January 22, 2019.

On November 5, 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice took the rare step of filing for certiorari before judgment with the Supreme Court, seeking review of the preliminary injunction issued in this case and of the similar injunction issued in *U.C. Regents* (California); and it also seeks review of the decision in *NAACP* (District of Columbia).

### **CASA de Maryland, et al. v. Dept. of Homeland Security, et al.**<sup>19</sup>

On March 5, 2018, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland issued an opinion in *CASA de Maryland v. Trump* dismissing most of the plaintiffs’ claims in that case, including the claim that the DACA termination was unlawful. However, the court did grant a nationwide

<sup>15</sup> See [www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/DACA-ca9-2018-11-08.pdf](http://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/DACA-ca9-2018-11-08.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> *Batalla Vidal, et al. v. Nielsen, et al.*, 1:16-cv-04756 (E.D.N.Y.); *State of New York, et al. v. Trump, et al.*, 1:17-cv-05228 (E.D.N.Y.).

<sup>17</sup> See [www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Batalla-Vidal-v-Nielsen-updated-pi-order-2018-02-13.pdf](http://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Batalla-Vidal-v-Nielsen-updated-pi-order-2018-02-13.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> The lawsuit is led by New York Attorney General Schneiderman, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, and Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, and filed by attorneys general from New York, Massachusetts, Washington, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia. See “A.G. Schneiderman Files Lawsuit to Protect Dreamers and Preserve DACA,” New York State Office of the Attorney General press release, Sep. 6, 2017, <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-files-lawsuit-protect-dreamers-and-preserve-daca>, and “AG Coffman Statement on Governor Joining Democrat DACA Lawsuit,” Colorado Attorney General’s Office press release, Sep. 13, 2017, <https://coag.gov/press-room/press-releases/09-13-17-0>.

<sup>19</sup> *CASA de Maryland, et al. v. Dept. of Homeland Security, et al.*, 8:17-cv-02942 (D.Md.).

preliminary injunction to DACA recipients on their claim regarding the sharing and usage of the information DACA recipients have provided to the government when applying for DACA. The court ordered the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to follow its original 2012 guidance about not sharing or using DACA recipients' private information for enforcement purposes against them or their family members unless certain circumstances exist, such as that the person poses a national security threat or has committed certain crimes.

The *CASA de Maryland* court order prohibits DHS from rescinding, modifying, or superseding this guidance for the time being. In addition, under the order, if DHS wants to use any DACA recipient's information against them for enforcement purposes, DHS is required to make this request to the court directly and have the court do a confidential review of the request.

The plaintiffs appealed to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals the dismissal of their claim that the DACA termination was unlawful, and the parties have now completed briefing to the Fourth Circuit. Oral argument has been scheduled for December 11, 2018.

### **NAACP v. Trump, et al., and Trustees of Princeton, et al. v. United States of America, et al.**<sup>20</sup>

On April 24, 2018, Judge John Bates of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a final judgment that (a) grants, in part, summary judgment in favor of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and organizations that sued to reverse the Trump administration's termination of the DACA program and (b) orders that the memorandum terminating the program be vacated. The order was issued in *NAACP v. Trump* and *Princeton v. Trump*, two cases that the court related to each other such that the order applies to both.

The judge's decision would reinstate the status quo as it was before September 5, 2017, when the original DACA program was in place and U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services (USCIS) was accepting first-time applications for DACA (rather than only DACA renewal applications). But, critically, *the court also stayed (or paused) its own order* for 90 days to allow the government to come up with a better explanation than the one it presented to the court for why it ended DACA.

In response, on June 22, 2018, DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen issued a [new memorandum](#) that "concur[s] with and decline[s] to disturb" the September 5, 2017, memorandum that terminated the DACA program.<sup>21</sup> Afterward, the government asked Judge Bates to reconsider his April 24 order in light of Secretary Nielsen's new memorandum, which the government said provided more detail on why it decided to end DACA.

In an [order](#) issued on August 3, 2018,<sup>22</sup> Judge Bates rejected the government's request for the court to reconsider its previous decision that the memorandum terminating the DACA program must be vacated, potentially paving the way for the original (2012) DACA program to be fully reinstated. The order issued on August 3 carefully analyzes Secretary Nielsen's June 22 memorandum but holds that the court's previous decision, issued April 24, still stands. However, the court in DC stayed its order for 20 days (until August 23) to give the federal government the chance to appeal the decision, to request a stay of the reinstatement of the original 2012 DACA program. After the federal government submitted to the court another explanation of its reasoning for terminating DACA, the court issued an opinion upholding its prior order, again reasoning that the DACA termination was unlawful.

<sup>20</sup> *NAACP v. Trump, et al.*, 1:17-cv-01907 (D.D.C.); *Trustees of Princeton Univ., et al. v. United States of America, et al.*, 1:17-cv-02325 (D.D.C.).

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/18\\_0622\\_S1\\_Memorandum\\_DACA.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/18_0622_S1_Memorandum_DACA.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> [https://ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show\\_public\\_doc?2017cv2325-78](https://ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_public_doc?2017cv2325-78).

Nevertheless, the court subsequently partially stayed its earlier order that vacated the Trump administration's termination of the DACA program. This stay postpones the effective date of portions of the court's order that would require USCIS to accept DACA applications regardless of whether the applicants previously had DACA. The partial stay does not change the status quo. People who are otherwise DACA-eligible still may not submit a first-time application for DACA. The government subsequently appealed this decision, and the parties are in the process of completing their briefing to the court. Briefing is expected to be completed on January 22, 2019.

On November 5, 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice took the rare step of filing for certiorari before judgment with the Supreme Court, seeking review of the decision issued in this case and of the preliminary injunctions issued in the related lawsuits, *Batalla Vidal* (New York) and *U.C. Regents* (California).

DUE TO THE NATIONWIDE INJUNCTIONS issued by the U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of California and the Eastern District of New York earlier this year, **USCIS still is required to accept, and is currently processing, DACA renewal applications** from people who have previously received deferred action and a work permit through DACA, while litigation in those courts works through the normal appeals process.

For more information on how to apply for DACA renewal, see NILC's [FAQ: USCIS Is Accepting DACA Renewal Applications](#).<sup>23</sup> For more detail on what the April 24, 2018, decision from the D.C. District means, see NILC's [Alert: U.S. District Court in D.C. Orders That the DACA Termination Memo Be Vacated — but Not for at Least 90 Days](#).<sup>24</sup> For more detail on what the August 3, 2018, decision from the district court in DC means, see NILC's [Alert: U.S. District Court in DC Rules Again That the Trump Administration's Termination of DACA Is Unlawful — but Pauses Order until August 23](#).<sup>25</sup>

### **Texas, et al. v. Nielsen, et al.**<sup>26</sup>

On May 1, 2018, Texas and six other states (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, and West Virginia) filed a lawsuit against the federal government in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division, challenging the creation of the 2012 DACA program. Subsequently, the state of Kansas and the governors of Mississippi and Maine also joined this lawsuit against the DACA program. The case was eventually assigned to the same judge who presided over *U.S. v. Texas* in 2015,<sup>27</sup> Judge Andrew Hanen. *U.S. v. Texas*, which when it was originally filed was called *Texas v. U.S.*, was a lawsuit filed to block the Obama administration's implementation of both (a) an expansion of DACA (that was intended to make DACA available to more people) and (b) another, related program, Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). In that lawsuit, Judge Hanen blocked the implementation of DAPA and expanded DACA, a decision that was upheld by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and left in place by a 4-4 nonprecedential decision of the U.S. Supreme Court.

<sup>23</sup> [www.nilc.org/issues/daca/faq-uscis-accepting-daca-renewal-applications/](http://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/faq-uscis-accepting-daca-renewal-applications/).

<sup>24</sup> [www.nilc.org/issues/daca/dc-court-orders-daca-termination-memo-vacated/](http://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/dc-court-orders-daca-termination-memo-vacated/).

<sup>25</sup> [www.nilc.org/issues/daca/daca-dds-denial-of-reconsideration-alert/](http://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/daca-dds-denial-of-reconsideration-alert/).

<sup>26</sup> *Texas, et al. v. United States*, No. 18-00068 (S.D. Tex. May 1, 2018).

<sup>27</sup> [www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-reform-and-executive-actions/united-states-v-state-of-texas/](http://www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-reform-and-executive-actions/united-states-v-state-of-texas/).

**Plaintiffs' argument.** In their [complaint](#),<sup>28</sup> Texas and the other states argue that, over the summer of 2017, a larger group of ten states had threatened to amend their 2015 lawsuit to also challenge the original DACA program if the government did not terminate it by September 5, 2017 — and, in response, the government terminated DACA on Sep. 5. Though Texas and the other states dropped their threat to challenge DACA at that time, they now argue that the California and New York injunctions and the District of Columbia order (see above) have had the effect of prolonging the DACA program indefinitely. The injunctions issued in California and New York allow people who have had DACA to apply to renew it, and the D.C. order could nullify the Trump administration memorandum that terminated DACA, if the government does not act by July 23, 2018. Texas and the other states say that this indefinite prolongation of a program that the government terminated is why they filed a lawsuit now against a program that has been in place for nearly six years.

The plaintiff states' complaint raises the same legal claims that the 2015 *U.S. v. Texas* lawsuit did, alleging that the creation of DACA violated both the procedural and substantive requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, as well as the Take Care Clause of the U.S. Constitution. They seek a declaration that DACA is unlawful and a nationwide order prohibiting the government from issuing new periods of deferred action under the program. Judge Hanen ordered that an initial scheduling conference be held on July 31, 2018.

**Motions for preliminary injunction and to intervene.** On May 2, 2018, Texas and the other states filed a [motion for preliminary injunction](#) to halt the 2012 DACA program from operating during the pendency of this lawsuit, both for initial and renewal applications.<sup>29</sup> The plaintiff states requested relief by July 23, 2018, the date on which the 90-day period set out in the *NAACP v. Trump* and *Princeton v. Trump* cases expires.

On May 8, 2018, 22 individual DACA recipients, represented by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), asked Judge Hanen to intervene formally in this case as defendants. In their motion, they argue that if the court does not let them become part of the case, the agencies of the federal government that are the defendants in the case will not adequately represent DACA recipients' interests.<sup>30</sup> On May 15, 2018, Judge Hanen granted MALDEF's and the 22 DACA recipients' request to intervene, formally making them defendants in the case.<sup>31</sup> On June 25, 2018, the court granted a request by the state of New Jersey to intervene, formally making it a defendant in the case as well.

**Preliminary injunction hearing and court's subsequent order.** On August 8, 2018, the court held a hearing in Houston, Tex., on the plaintiff states' motion for a preliminary injunction. During the hearing, attorneys for the parties addressed whether the plaintiff states have legal authority to bring the lawsuit, whether a conflict exists between the plaintiffs and defendants, the alleged harms that the plaintiff states claim they are suffering as a result of the continued processing of DACA applications, and the scope of any potential preliminary injunction that the court could issue, among other issues.

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<sup>28</sup> [www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Texas-et-al-v-US-et-al-complaint-2018-05-01.pdf](http://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Texas-et-al-v-US-et-al-complaint-2018-05-01.pdf).

<sup>29</sup> [www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Texas-et-al-v-US-et-al-prelim-inj-motion-2018-05-02.pdf](http://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Texas-et-al-v-US-et-al-prelim-inj-motion-2018-05-02.pdf).

<sup>30</sup> MALDEF's press release about its filing, which includes hyperlinks to the Motion for Leave to Intervene, supporting documents, and biographies of all the proposed intervenors, is available at [www.maldef.org/news/releases/2018\\_05\\_08\\_MALDEF\\_Files\\_Motion\\_to\\_Intervene\\_on\\_Behalf\\_of\\_Dreamers\\_in\\_Texas-Led\\_Lawsuit\\_Challenging\\_DACA/](http://www.maldef.org/news/releases/2018_05_08_MALDEF_Files_Motion_to_Intervene_on_Behalf_of_Dreamers_in_Texas-Led_Lawsuit_Challenging_DACA/).

<sup>31</sup> MALDEF's press release about this development is available at [www.maldef.org/news/releases/2018\\_05\\_15\\_Federal\\_Court\\_Grants\\_MALDEF\\_Motion\\_to\\_Intervene\\_on\\_Behalf\\_of\\_Dreamers\\_in\\_Texas-Led\\_Lawsuit\\_Challenging\\_DACA/](http://www.maldef.org/news/releases/2018_05_15_Federal_Court_Grants_MALDEF_Motion_to_Intervene_on_Behalf_of_Dreamers_in_Texas-Led_Lawsuit_Challenging_DACA/).

On August 31, 2018, Judge Hanen [issued an order](#) denying the plaintiff states' request for a preliminary injunction, concluding that such an injunction is not in the public's interest.<sup>32</sup> While Judge Hanen concludes that the plaintiff states are likely to succeed in showing that DACA is unlawful and that the plaintiff states have been irreparably harmed by DACA, his decision to deny their request recognizes the significant hardships that DACA beneficiaries would experience if he were to grant such an injunction. As a result of this order, it continues to be the case that *people who currently have or previously had DACA may apply to renew it*. (For more information about applying to renew DACA, see our [FAQ: USCIS Is Accepting DACA Renewal Applications](#).<sup>33</sup>)

Judge Hanen also [certified his opinion for appeal](#);<sup>34</sup> however, Texas and the other states decided not to appeal. After Judge Hanen issued his latest order, the parties moved for a discovery hearing, for determining whether further discovery is needed and to set the discovery schedule. That hearing was scheduled for November 14, 2018. The court has since issued a discovery schedule that requires the parties to undertake discovery prior to any resolution of this lawsuit.

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<sup>32</sup> [www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Texas2-v-US-memorandum-opinion-and-order-2018-08-31.pdf](http://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Texas2-v-US-memorandum-opinion-and-order-2018-08-31.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> [www.nilc.org/issues/daca/faq-uscis-accepting-daca-renewal-applications/](http://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/faq-uscis-accepting-daca-renewal-applications/).

<sup>34</sup> [www.nilc.org/texas2-v-us-interlocutory-appeal-order-2018-08-31/](http://www.nilc.org/texas2-v-us-interlocutory-appeal-order-2018-08-31/).