



U.S. Department of Justice

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February 11, 2026

Hon. Matthew W. Brann
Chief United States District Judge
United States District Court
for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
U.S. Courthouse and Federal Office Building
240 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Re: *United States v. Giraud III et al.*, No. 24-cr-768 (MRB)
United States v. Pina, No. 25-cr-436 (MRB)

Dear Chief Judge Brann:

I write on behalf of the parties regarding (1) whether “the stay in these matters should be lifted” and (2) whether “any issues remain in these matters that continue to require the Court’s special designation.” *Giraud* Docket Entry 151; *Pina* Docket Entry 74.

There are two stays in play here: (1) the stay of the trial and “all other pretrial motions” that this Court entered August 1, 2025 in *Giraud* pending disposition of the Girauds’ motion to disqualify Alina Habba, *Giraud* Docket Entry 117; and (2) the stay of the disqualification orders in *Giraud* and *Pina* “pending appellate proceedings in these matters,” *Giraud* Docket Entry 145; *Pina* Docket Entry 69. There is no need to keep the latter stay in place. But there is or soon will be an issue in both cases warranting this Court’s continued retention of them.

All three defendants have filed or soon will file motions joining in the authority challenge now pending before this Court in *Naviwala* and *Torres*. See *Pina* Docket Entries 75–76. Those motions make or will make *Giraud* and *Pina* “related” to *Naviwala* and therefore subject to Chief Judge Chagares’s designation and related cases order in *Naviwala*. Accordingly, this Court should not transfer *Giraud* and *Pina* back to Judges Kiel and Arleo, respectively, until this Court resolves the authority challenge in *Naviwala* and *Torres*.

The parties thank the Court for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: Counsel of Record (via ECF)