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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

United States of America,

Plaintiff,

v.

Shamar Tyrell Garcia; Giann Icob Salazar
Del Real; Devonte Devon Jackson; and
Jorge Enriquez, Jr.,

Defendants.

No. 2:25-cr-00230-RFB-BNW
No. 2:25-cr-00227-JAD-BNW
No. 2:25-cr-00240-GMN-BNW
No. 3:25-cr-00026-MMD-CLB

ORDER

The undersigned judge previously ruled that Acting U.S. Attorney Sigal Chattah was not legally appointed, and disqualified her from supervising these four cases. *United States v. Garcia*, 2025 WL 2784640 (D. Nev. Sept. 30, 2025), *appeal filed*, No. 25-6229 (9th Cir. Oct. 2, 2025). The government now asks the Court to stay its disqualification order until the Ninth Circuit resolves the existing appeal.¹

Courts consider four factors when deciding whether to grant a stay pending appeal: “(1) whether the stay applicant has made a strong showing that [it] is likely to succeed on the merits; (2) whether the applicant will be irreparably injured absent a stay; (3) whether issuance of the stay will substantially injure the other parties interested in the proceeding; and (4) where the public interest lies.” *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418, 425-26 (2009)

¹ See *Garcia*, Doc. 43; *Salazar Del Real*, Doc. 45; *Jackson*, Doc. 45; *Enriquez*, Doc. 47.

1 (citation omitted). The first two factors are the most important, and “fall on a sliding scale
2 in which the required degree of irreparable harm increases as the probability of success
3 decreases.” *Mi Familia Vota v. Fontes*, 111 F.4th 976, 981 (9th Cir. 2024) (citation
4 modified). To justify a stay, a moving party must at least show that “serious legal questions
5 are raised” by the appeal. *Leiva-Perez v. Holder*, 640 F.3d 962, 967-68 (9th Cir. 2011)
6 (citation omitted). The Court will address the four stay factors.

7 **1. Serious Questions.**

8 The Court stands by its previous ruling. For reasons already explained at length,
9 the Court concludes that Ms. Chattah’s appointment is not valid under the Federal
10 Vacancies Reform Act (FVRA). *Garcia*, 2025 WL 2784640, at *4-11. The Court also
11 concludes that the government’s alternative argument – that the Attorney General can
12 confer on Ms. Chattah all the powers of a U.S. Attorney by using general delegation statutes
13 – is directly barred by § 3447(a) and (b) of the FVRA. *Id.* at *11-14. The government has
14 not shown it is likely to prevail on its challenge to these conclusions.

15 The Court also recognizes, however, that the disqualification motions raise novel
16 and important issues. Only one other court has addressed these issues. *See United States*
17 *v. Giraud*, --- F.Supp.3d ----, 2025 WL 2416737 (D.N.J. Aug. 21, 2025). They present
18 important questions of when and how the President or Attorney General can fill a vacancy
19 in a U.S. Attorney position on an acting basis. These issues are sufficiently serious to
20 satisfy the first stay requirement.

21 **2. Irreparable Harm.**

22 The harm at issue in this case is not like the harm encountered in typical civil
23 litigation. The potential harm arises from the Constitution’s division of federal powers and
24 the deference and respect each of the three federal branches should afford each other. The
25 concern, as the Ninth Circuit has noted, is “harm to the separation of powers.” *United*
26 *States v. Williams*, 68 F.4th 564, 570 (9th Cir. 2023). Such harm is particularly relevant in
27 this case because “[t]he doctrine of separation of powers requires judicial respect for the
28 independence of the prosecutor.” *United States v. Simpson*, 927 F.2d 1088, 1091 (9th Cir.

1 1991). The separation of powers calls for courts to show “special solicitude” for Executive
2 Branch prerogatives. *Nixon v. Fitzgerald*, 457 U.S. 731, 743 (1982).

3 The Court’s earlier decision disqualifies an Acting U.S. Attorney, appointed by the
4 Attorney General, from supervising prosecutions initiated by the Executive Branch. While
5 the Court is fully persuaded that its decision is correct as a matter of law, the decision
6 nonetheless intrudes on Executive Branch prerogatives. If the Court’s decision is not
7 correct, such an intrusion is improper. Given the solemn respect our separate branches of
8 government should have for each other, the mere possibility of an improper intrusion is
9 sufficient in the Court’s view to satisfy the irreparable harm prong of the stay inquiry. And
10 a separation-of-powers harm is great enough to offset the lower showing made by the
11 government on the first prong – serious questions rather than a likelihood of success on the
12 merits.

13 **3. Injury to Defendants.**

14 Defendants express concern that staying the Court’s earlier decision and allowing
15 Ms. Chattah to supervise their prosecutions will injure them. The Court is not persuaded.
16 Defendants’ cases presumably will continue to be managed primarily by the assigned line
17 prosecutors, and the stay imposed in this order likely will be short-lived given the Ninth
18 Circuit’s expedited schedule for deciding the appeal.

19 **4. Public Interest.**

20 The public certainly has an interest in a government that turns square corners and
21 complies with the statutory commands of the FVRA, but it also has an interest in avoiding
22 unnecessary confrontations between the executive and judicial branches of government.
23 Given these contrasting and serious interests, this fourth factor does not persuade the Court
24 to deny the stay request.

25 **5. Conclusion.**

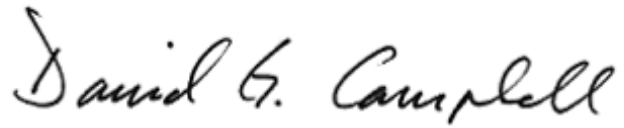
26 The Court still holds that Ms. Chattah has not been validly appointed. But the Court
27 also recognizes the deference and respect it should have for the Executive Branch, just as
28 the Executive Branch should have deference and respect for the Judiciary. To promote that

1 spirit of solicitude, and in light of the relatively fast schedule set by the Ninth Circuit for
2 resolving these matters, the Court will grant the government’s motion to stay. *See Giraud,*
3 *2025 WL 2416737*, at *30 (staying similar decision).

4 **IT IS ORDERED** that the motion to stay is granted. The Court’s earlier decision,
5 *United States v. Garcia*, 2025 WL 2784640 (D. Nev. Sept. 30, 2025), is stayed until
6 completion of the Ninth Circuit’s review.

7 Dated this 23rd day of October, 2025.

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David G. Campbell
Senior United States District Judge