

**2025 Immigration Court Observation -MERIT Hearing**Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Observer: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ In Person ☐ WebEx**GENERAL**

1. 9 digit A# or last 3: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Country of origin : \_\_\_\_\_

3. Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Trans/ non-binary ☐ Unsure ☐ Didn't appear, reason: \_\_\_\_\_4. Judge: ☐ Carr ☐ Ivany ☐ Mazzie ☐ Miller ☐ Sardelli ☐ Wood ☐ Zaske ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_5. DHS Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ didn't appear6. Was the respondent represented today? ☐ Yes ☐ No, pro se ☐ Attorney failed to appear

Comment (incl. atty name): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Has the respondent been deemed incompetent by the court ? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure8. Is today's hearing a continuation of a previously commenced merits hearing? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure9. **DOCKET:** ☐ Non-Detained ☐ IHP (prison) ☐ ICE detention ☐ Unsure; Comment: \_\_\_\_\_**LANGUAGE**

10. Respondent's preferred language: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Did court find interpreter in preferred language?: ☐ Yes ☐ No; If no, what language provided? \_\_\_\_\_12. Interpretation: ☐ No problems ☐ Problem; Comment: \_\_\_\_\_**MERITS**13. **Relief being sought/ application being heard** (check all that apply)

- |  |   |                                      |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment of status  | <input type="checkbox"/> I-589: <input type="checkbox"/> Asylum / <input type="checkbox"/> WOR / <input type="checkbox"/> CAT | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancellation: <input type="checkbox"/> 42A (LPR) <input type="checkbox"/> 42B | <input type="checkbox"/> Termination Dismissal  | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure      |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Departure  |                                      |

14. Comment re evidence submitted by Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Comment re evidence submitted by DHS: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Testimony/ Witnesses- (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Respondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Country Expert
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Supporter	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health

17. Did judge place any constraints on testimony? ☐ Yes ☐ No; Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Comment about testifiers/ testimony: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Were there supporters present (court / webex) who did not testify? ☐ no ☐ yes, family ☐ yes, other supporters**Presence in country**20. Respondent's entry date/ length of time in the US: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Unknown21. Does respondent have family in the US? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown If family present, who and what status in US: \_\_\_\_\_**Background**

22. What was said about conditions in home country? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Not discussed

**Criminal history**

23. Arrests or convictions? ☐ Not Discussed ☐ No criminal Hx ☐ Has at least one arrest ☐ Has at least one conviction

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Legal argument**

24. Describe the main argument of respondent (or attorney): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

25. Describe the main argument of government attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

26. Describe main questioning / reasoning of Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

27. Did judge make an adverse credibility or character finding? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure; Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Health**

28. Was there mention of respondent having the following medical/ mental health issues?

☐ Bipolar ☐ Depression/ Anxiety ☐ Schizophrenia ☐ Other

☐ Chemical Dependency ☐ PTSD ☐ Torture Survivor ☐ None

☐ Cognitive Impairment ☐ Sexual assault survivor ☐ Traumatic Brain injury

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUSION**

29. Judge's action:

☐ Case cont'd for testimony ☐ Relief Denied ☐ Voluntary departure

☐ Case cont'd for oral decision ☐ Relief Granted ☐ Unsure

☐ Will issue written decision Relief type: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

30. If continued, next hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

31. If removal order, did judge give advisal about consequences of unauthorized return, bars to relief, fines for non-cooperation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

32. Did parties reserve appeal of decision? ☐ NA\_(no decision today) DHS: ☐ Yes ☐ No Respondent: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

33. **Other comments, impressions, concerns:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

34. How long did hearing last? ☐ less than 2 hours ☐ 2-3 hours ☐ 3-4 hours ☐ More than 4 hours