

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

JALAL SHEHADEH,

Plaintiff,

v.

MARKWAYNE MULLIN, *in his official
capacity as Secretary of the Department of
Homeland Security*

Defendant.

CASE NO. _____

**TIME-SENSITIVE MOTION FOR RETURN OF PROPERTY
PURSUANT TO FED. R. CRIM. P. 41 (g) AND REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED
CONSIDERATION AND HEARING**

Pursuant to Rule 41(g)¹ of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Plaintiff Jalal Shehadeh (“Plaintiff”) files this Time-Sensitive Motion for Return of Property and seeks the immediate return of his cellular telephone, which United States Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) seized on September 17, 2026, upon his reentry into the United States at Newark Liberty International Airport and continues to retain.

¹ Rule 41(g) provides:

A person aggrieved by an unlawful search and seizure of property or by the deprivation of property may move for the property's return. The motion must be filed in the district where the property was seized. The court must receive evidence on any factual issue necessary to decide the motion. If it grants the motion, the court must return the property to the movant, but may impose reasonable conditions to protect access to the property and its use in later proceedings.

Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(g).

Plaintiff is a practicing attorney, and the seized phone contains confidential and attorney-client privileged communications concerning active client matters. Plaintiff expressly asserted attorney-client privilege and declined to consent to a search of the phone, but CBP nevertheless retained the device. CBP continues to possess the phone, and, to Plaintiff's knowledge, no warrant, criminal proceeding, or forfeiture proceeding authorizes its continued retention.

Given the time-sensitive nature of the relief sought and the ongoing deprivation of Plaintiff's property, Plaintiff respectfully requests expedited consideration of this Motion and an expedited hearing as soon as practicably feasible. Plaintiff further respectfully requests that any data extracted from his seized phone be permanently destroyed and not retained or disseminated in any form, except as authorized by order of this Court. Plaintiff lastly respectfully requests that he be provided a detailed explanation about what was done to his phone, including the names of officers or other agents who came into contact with his phone, what specific actions they took with the phone, any custody or property logs documenting what happened to his phone, and any other information this Court deems pertinent.

A memorandum in support of this Motion and Plaintiff's Declaration are filed concurrently.

Dated: September 26, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Christina John

Christina John,* NJ Bar No. 379242021

Jenin Younes (*pro hac vice pending*)

AMERICAN-ARAB ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
COMMITTEE

910 17th Street NW

Washington, DC 20006

christina@adc.org

*Designated Counsel for Service

Attorneys for Plaintiff