

1 Charles J. Cooper (*Pro Hac Vice* Application  
 2 Forthcoming), DC Bar No. 248070  
 3 COOPER & KIRK, PLLC  
 4 1523 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
 5 Washington, DC 20036  
 6 Telephone: (202) 220-9600  
 7 Email: ccooper@cooperkirk.com

8 Michael B. McClellan, CBN 241570  
 9 NEUMEYER & DILLION LLP  
 10 895 Dove Street, Fifth Floor  
 11 Newport Beach, CA 92660  
 12 Telephone: (949) 854-7000  
 13 Email: Michael.McClellan@ndlf.com

14 Michael W. Battin, CBN 183870  
 15 NAVIGATO & BATTIN, LLP  
 16 755 West A Street, Suite 150  
 17 San Diego, CA 92101  
 18 Telephone: (619) 233-5365  
 19 Email: mike@navbat.com

20 *Attorneys for Plaintiff The GEO Group, Inc.*

21 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 22 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

23 THE GEO GROUP, INC.,

24 Plaintiff,

25 v.

26 GAVIN C. NEWSOM, in his official  
 27 capacity as Governor of the State of  
 28 California; XAVIER BECERRA, in his  
 official capacity as Attorney General of  
 the State of California,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO: '19CV2491 JLS WVG

**COMPLAINT**

1. Plaintiff The GEO Group, Inc. (GEO) brings this action for declaratory and injunctive relief against Defendants Governor Gavin C. Newsom and Attorney General Xavier Becerra regarding California Assembly Bill 32 (AB-32).

2. The unlawful effect of AB-32 is to undermine and eliminate the congressionally funded and approved enforcement of federal criminal and

1 immigration law by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S.  
2 Marshals Service (USMS), and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons within the State of  
3 California. AB-32 will impact at least ten (10) of the privately managed facilities  
4 totaling 10,925 beds, which represent the overwhelming majority of detention  
5 capacity held by the Federal Government in the State of California. GEO manages  
6 seven (7) of the privately managed facilities for USMS and ICE, totaling 5,727 beds.

7 3. Two hundred years ago, in the foundational case of *McCulloch v.*  
8 *Maryland*, Chief Justice John Marshall invoked the “great principle” that “the  
9 constitution and the laws made in pursuance thereof are supreme; that they control  
10 the constitution and laws of the respective states, and cannot be controlled by them.”  
11 17 U.S. (4 Wheat.) 316, 426 (1819). This principle “so entirely pervades the  
12 constitution, is so intermixed with the materials which compose it, so interwoven  
13 with its web, so blended with its texture, as to be incapable of being separated from  
14 it, without rending it into shreds.” *Id.* Based on this bedrock precept—derived from  
15 the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution—it has been incontestable  
16 from *McCulloch* onward that “the activities of the Federal Government are free from  
17 regulation by any state.” *Hancock v. Train*, 426 U.S. 167, 178 (1976) (quotation  
18 marks omitted).

19 4. And just as the activities of the Federal Government may not be directly  
20 regulated by any state, “[t]he government of the United States, . . . though limited in  
21 its powers, is supreme; and its laws, when made in pursuance of the constitution,  
22 form the supreme law of the land, ‘anything in the constitution or laws of any state  
23 to the contrary notwithstanding.’” *McCulloch*, 17 U.S (4 Wheat.) at 406; *see also*  
24 *Gibbons v. Ogden*, 22 U.S. (9 Wheat.) 1, 211 (1824) (Marshall, C.J.) (Supremacy  
25 Clause ensures that States not enact laws that “interfere with, or are contrary to the  
26 laws of Congress”). This power of Congress to preempt inconsistent state laws is,  
27 like the Federal Government’s immunity from state regulation, a “fundamental

28 ///

1 principle of the Constitution.” *Crosby v. National Foreign Trade Council*, 530 U.S.  
2 363, 372 (2000).

3 5. Like the State of Maryland two hundred years ago, the State of  
4 California seeks to subvert these principles, asserting the authority to regulate and  
5 undermine the United States Government in the exercise of sovereign powers  
6 undoubtedly within the supreme sphere of federal action. And as it was two hundred  
7 years ago, it is the duty of the federal courts to guard our constitutional order against  
8 this attack.

9 6. There is no question that the Federal Government has the power to  
10 detain individuals in anticipation of, or as a consequence of, federal criminal or  
11 immigration proceedings. Nor is there any question that the Federal Government has  
12 the authority to contract with private entities with expertise in the operation of  
13 detention facilities to carry out its detention responsibilities. And, indeed, Congress  
14 has enacted statutes that clearly authorize the Executive Branch to house federal  
15 detainees in private facilities as that Branch deems appropriate. Yet, under the  
16 recently enacted Assembly Bill 32, it will be illegal as of January 1, 2020, for the  
17 Federal Government to enter into or renew such contracts for facilities in the State of  
18 California. This transparent attempt by the State to shut down the Federal  
19 Government’s detention efforts within California’s borders is a direct assault on the  
20 supremacy of federal law, and it cannot stand.

21 7. The GEO Group, as the owner and operator of federal private detention  
22 facilities threatened by the State, brings this action to reassert the foundational  
23 principles laid down in *McCulloch v. Maryland* two centuries ago. This Court should  
24 declare AB-32 unconstitutional and enter a preliminary and permanent injunction  
25 restraining Defendants from enforcing the statute against GEO.

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

## JURISDICTION & VENUE

1  
2           8.     This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the question  
3 whether AB-32 violates the United States Constitution or is preempted by federal law  
4 is a federal question.

5           9.     This Court also has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because The  
6 GEO Group, Inc. and the Defendants are citizens of different states and the value of  
7 the declaratory and/or injunctive relief sought by GEO exceeds \$75,000.

8           10.    Finally, this Court has supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367  
9 over GEO’s request for relief pursuant to AB-32 because that claim is “so related to  
10 claims in the action within [this Court’s] original jurisdiction that [it] form[s] part of  
11 the same case or controversy.” 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

12           11.    Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a  
13 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this claim occurred, or a  
14 substantial part of the property that is the subject of this action is situated, in this  
15 District. GEO’s Western Region Detention Center and El Centro Service Processing  
16 Center—two of the private detention facilities threatened by AB-32—are located in  
17 this District, and the effects of AB-32 will be felt in this District.

## THE PARTIES

18  
19           12.    Plaintiff The GEO Group, Inc. is a corporation organized and existing  
20 under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal place of business in Boca  
21 Raton, Florida.

22           13.    Defendant Gavin C. Newsom is a citizen of California and the Governor  
23 of the State of California. He has “[t]he supreme executive power” of the State of  
24 California (the “State”) and is charged with “see[ing] that the law is faithfully  
25 executed.” CAL. CONST. art. V, § 1. As head of the Executive Branch, he has a duty  
26 to “supervise the official conduct of all executive and ministerial officers,” including  
27 the Attorney General. CAL. GOV’T CODE § 12010. In light of these duties, Governor  
28 Newsom has responsibility for enforcing AB-32. He is sued in his official capacity.



1           18.    Approximately one month later, on January 10, 2017, Assembly Bill  
2 103 (AB-103) was introduced in the California Legislature. As enacted, AB-103  
3 prohibits, among other things, city, county, and local law enforcement agencies from  
4 entering into contracts “with the federal government or any federal agency to detain  
5 adult noncitizens for purposes of civil immigration custody” unless those contracts  
6 were in effect before June 15, 2017, and it prohibits the renewal or modification of  
7 such contracts thereafter “in such a way as to expand the maximum number of  
8 contract beds that may be utilized to house or detain in a locked detention facility  
9 noncitizens for purposes of civil immigration custody.” CAL. GOV’T CODE  
10 § 7310(a)–(b).

11           19.    The Senate Floor Analysis of SB-29 stated that its enactment was  
12 necessary to obstruct federal immigration policy: “President Donald Trump  
13 has . . . made it clear that he intends to detain more immigrants and expand private  
14 for profit detention facility use. This bill would protect immigrants held in immigrant  
15 detention in California.”<sup>1</sup> The Assembly Committee on Judiciary analysis of the bill  
16 likewise stated that it was needed “[i]n light of the changed circumstances in the  
17 White House,”<sup>2</sup> and it quoted the author as saying that the bill was necessary due to  
18 “the new administration’s commitment to deport millions.”<sup>3</sup>

19           20.    Governor Jerry Brown signed AB-103 into law on June 27, 2017, and  
20 signed SB-29 into law a few months later, on October 5, 2017.

21           **B.    Assembly Bill 32 (AB-32)**

22           21.    On December 3, 2018, Assembly Bill 32 was introduced in the  
23 California Legislature.

24    ///

25           <sup>1</sup> Senate Rules Comm., Senate Floor Analyses for SB-29, 2017–18 Sess., at 5  
26 (Cal. May 27, 2017), <https://bit.ly/2O9c3eP>.

27           <sup>2</sup> Assemb. Comm. on Judiciary, Analysis of SB-29, 2017–18 Sess., at 2  
(Cal. June 27, 2017), <https://bit.ly/2O9c3eP>.

28           <sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 4.

1           22. AB-32 builds on SB-29 and AB-103 by amending the California Penal  
2 Code in two principal ways.

3           23. First, it generally prohibits the California Department of Corrections and  
4 Rehabilitation (CDCR) from contracting with private, for-profit prison facilities to  
5 house state inmates. As enacted, Section 1 of AB-32, codified at California Penal  
6 Code § 5003.1, provides:

7           5003.1. (a) On or after January 1, 2020, the department shall not enter  
8 into a contract with a private, for-profit prison facility located in or  
outside of the state to provide housing for state prison inmates.

9           (b) On or after January 1, 2020, the department shall not renew an  
10 existing contract with a private, for-profit prison facility located in or  
outside of the state to incarcerate state prison inmates.

11           (c) After January 1, 2028, a state prison inmate or other person under  
12 the jurisdiction of the department shall not be incarcerated in a private,  
for-profit prison facility.

13           (d) As used in this section, “private, for-profit prison facility” does not  
14 include a facility that is privately owned, but is leased and operated by  
the department.

15           (e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), the department may renew  
16 or extend a contract with a private, for-profit prison facility to provide  
17 housing for state prison inmates in order to comply with the  
requirements of any court-ordered population cap.

18           24. Thus, after January 1, 2020, CDCR may not enter into new contracts  
19 with private, for-profit prison facilities; nor may it renew such contracts.

20           25. Significantly, Section 1 of AB-32 contains an exception permitting  
21 CDCR to “renew or extend a contract with a private, for-profit prison facility to  
22 provide housing for state prison inmates in order to comply with the requirements of  
23 any court-ordered population cap.” CAL. PENAL CODE § 5003.1(e).

24           26. California’s prison system is subject to a court-ordered population cap  
25 under which its total prison population may not exceed 137.5 percent of the prisons’  
26 design capacity. *See generally Brown v. Plata*, 563 U.S. 493 (2011); *Coleman v.*  
27 *Brown*, 952 F. Supp. 2d 901 (E.D. Cal. 2013).

1           27. As of December 1, 2019, California’s prison system was operating at  
2 131.2 percent of design capacity. Its male institutions were at 131.3 percent of  
3 capacity, while its female institutions were at 129.9 percent of capacity.<sup>4</sup>

4           28. Second, AB-32 generally prohibits the operation of a private detention  
5 facility in the State of California, subject to a handful of exceptions. Section 2 of  
6 AB-32, codified at California Penal Code §§ 9500–03, 9505, states:

7           9500. As used in this title, the following terms have the following  
8 meanings:

9           (a) “Detention facility” means any facility in which persons are  
10 incarcerated or otherwise involuntarily confined for purposes of  
11 execution of a punitive sentence imposed by a court or detention  
12 pending a trial, hearing, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

13           (b) “Private detention facility” means a detention facility that is operated  
14 by a private, nongovernmental, for-profit entity, and operating pursuant  
15 to a contract or agreement with a governmental entity.

16           9501. Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person shall not  
17 operate a private detention facility within the state.

18           9502. Section 9501 shall not apply to any of the following:

19           (a) Any facility providing rehabilitative, counseling, treatment, mental  
20 health, educational, or medical services to a juvenile that is under the  
21 jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to Part 1 (commencing with  
22 Section 100) of Division 2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

23           (b) Any facility providing evaluation or treatment services to a person  
24 who has been detained, or is subject to an order of commitment by a  
25 court, pursuant to Section 1026, or pursuant to Division 5 (commencing  
26 with Section 5000) or Division 6 (commencing with Section 6000) of  
27 the Welfare and Institutions Code.

28           (c) Any facility providing educational, vocational, medical, or other  
ancillary services to an inmate in the custody of, and under the direct  
supervision of, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or a  
county sheriff or other law enforcement agency.

(d) A residential care facility licensed pursuant to Division 2  
(commencing with Section 1200) of the Health and Safety Code.

(e) Any school facility used for the disciplinary detention of a pupil.

---

<sup>4</sup> CAL. DEP’T OF CORR. & REHAB., MONTHLY REPORT OF POPULATION 2  
(Dec. 1, 2019), <https://bit.ly/38ZnK07>.

1 (f) Any facility used for the quarantine or isolation of persons for public  
2 health reasons pursuant to Division 105 (commencing with Section  
120100) of the Health and Safety Code.

3 (g) Any facility used for the temporary detention of a person detained  
4 or arrested by a merchant, private security guard, or other private person  
5 pursuant to Section 490.5 or 837.

6 9503. Section 9501 does not apply to any privately owned property or  
7 facility that is leased and operated by the Department of Corrections and  
8 Rehabilitation or a county sheriff or other law enforcement agency.

9 9505. Section 9501 does not apply to either of the following:

10 (a) A private detention facility that is operating pursuant to a valid  
11 contract with a governmental entity that was in effect before January 1,  
12 2020, for the duration of that contract, not to include any extensions  
13 made to or authorized by that contract.

14 (b) A private detention facility contract renewed pursuant to subdivision  
15 (e) of Section 5003.1.

16 29. Thus, after January 1, 2020 (the effective date of AB-32), the operation  
17 of a private detention facility will be prohibited in California unless an exception  
18 applies.

19 30. On the day he introduced AB-32, Assembly Member Rob Bonta issued  
20 a press release touting the bill, in which he attacked “the Trump  
21 Administration[’s] . . . cruel immigration policies” and criticized GEO for  
22 “facilitating the Trump Administration’s political agenda.”<sup>5</sup>

23 31. The Senate Floor Analysis of AB-32 anticipated litigation challenging  
24 its constitutionality by “this anti-immigrant President’s Administration.”<sup>6</sup>

25 32. Christina Fialho, co-founder of Freedom for Immigrants, a group listed  
26 as a supporter of AB-32 in the Senate Floor Analysis,<sup>7</sup> observed that AB-32 “will

27 <sup>5</sup> Press Release, Assembly Member Rob Bonta, *Bonta Introduces Bills Ending  
28 State’s Involvement in For-Profit, Private Prison Industry* (Dec. 3, 2018),  
<https://bit.ly/2Pga7Ch>.

<sup>6</sup> Senate Rules Comm., Senate Floor Analyses for AB-32, 2019–20 Sess., at 5  
(Cal. Sept. 9, 2019) [hereinafter “Senate Floor Analyses for AB-32”],  
<https://bit.ly/35htShk>.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 8.

1 deal a critical blow to the Trump administration’s efforts to further expand its system  
2 of immigration detention, especially as other states follow our lead.”<sup>8</sup>

3 33. Governor Newsom signed AB-32 into law on October 11, 2019.

## 4 **II. U.S. Marshals Service Detention Facilities**

5 34. Established in 1789, the United States Marshals Service (USMS) is an  
6 agency within the United States Department of Justice under the supervision of the  
7 Attorney General. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 561(a).

8 35. Congress has authorized the Attorney General to provide for “the  
9 housing, care, and security of persons held in custody of a United States marshal  
10 pursuant to Federal law under agreements with State or local units of government or  
11 contracts with private entities.” 18 U.S.C. § 4013(a)(3). Congress has also authorized  
12 the Attorney General, in his “reasonable discretion,” to carry out the activities of the  
13 Department of Justice “through any means,” including “through contracts, grants, or  
14 cooperative agreements with non-Federal parties.” 28 U.S.C. § 530C(a)(4); *see also*  
15 *id.* § 530C(b)(7) (authorizing the release of funds available to the Attorney General  
16 to the Department of Justice’s “Detention Trustee,” now merged with USMS, “in the  
17 exercise of all power and functions authorized by law relating to the detention of  
18 Federal prisoners in non-Federal institutions or otherwise in the custody of the United  
19 States Marshals Service”).

20 36. “The U.S. Marshals Service houses and transports all federal prisoners  
21 from the time they enter federal custody until they are either acquitted or convicted  
22 and delivered to their designated federal Bureau of Prisons facility. The Marshals  
23 Service assumes custody for all prisoners charged with a federal offense, no matter  
24 which agency made the arrest.”<sup>9</sup>

26 <sup>8</sup>Don Thompson & Amy Taxin, *California To End its Use of Private, For-*  
27 *Profit Prisons*, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Oct. 11, 2019), <https://bit.ly/2Pgb6C6>.

28 <sup>9</sup> U.S. MARSHALS SERV., DEFENDANTS IN CUSTODY AND PRISONER  
MANAGEMENT, <https://bit.ly/2MSd4Wv> (last visited Dec. 30, 2019).

1           37. Pursuant to the Attorney General’s statutory authority under 18 U.S.C.  
2 § 4013(a)(3) and 28 U.S.C. § 530C(a)(4), “[t]he Marshals Service does not own or  
3 operate detention facilities but partners with state and local governments using  
4 intergovernmental agreements to house prisoners. Additionally, the agency houses  
5 prisoners in Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities and private detention facilities.”<sup>10</sup>

6           38. Because “both defense attorneys and prosecutors require routine access  
7 to prisoners, the Marshals attempt to house prisoners in close proximity to the judicial  
8 district in which they are prosecuted.”<sup>11</sup>

9           39. USMS’s average daily population (ADP) of detainees has “increased at  
10 an unprecedented rate” since April 2017.<sup>12</sup> The Marshals estimate that, in Fiscal Year  
11 2020, they will have an average daily population of 62,159 detainees, the highest  
12 level in more than a decade.<sup>13</sup> These “[p]opulation increases from 2017 through 2019  
13 have already created a significant strain on USMS resources during FY 2019.”<sup>14</sup>

14           40. Along the Southwest Border, in particular, “DOJ has not been able to  
15 rely as much on [intergovernmental agreements with state and local detention  
16 facilities] and Federal facilities to meet housing requirements . . . . As less space in  
17 Federal facilities is available, DOJ has increasingly had to rely on the private sector”  
18 to meet its detention obligations.<sup>15</sup>

19           41. USMS estimates that approximately 18 percent of its detainees in  
20 FY 2020 will be housed in private detention facilities.<sup>16</sup> Indeed, as of April 2019,

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 <sup>10</sup> U.S. MARSHALS SERV., FACT SHEET: PRISONER OPERATIONS 2 (2019),  
<https://bit.ly/2Yi5RED>.

23 <sup>11</sup> *Id.*

24 <sup>12</sup> U.S. MARSHALS SERV., FY 2020 PERFORMANCE BUDGET PRESIDENT’S  
25 BUDGET: FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION APPROPRIATION 2 (2019),  
<https://bit.ly/2SnzdAx>.

26 <sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 4.

27 <sup>14</sup> *Id.* at 30.

28 <sup>15</sup> *Id.* at 15.

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* at 19.

1 28.6 percent of the detention facilities used by the Marshals to house detainees from  
 2 the Southern District of California were privately run.<sup>17</sup> Now that GEO began  
 3 operating the El Centro Service Processing Center on December 23, 2019, *see*  
 4 *infra*, ¶¶ 51–55, that figure has risen to 37.5 percent. Two of those private facilities—  
 5 the Western Region Detention Facility and El Centro Service Processing Center—  
 6 are operated by GEO.

7 **A. Western Region Detention Facility**

8 42. The Western Region Detention Facility, located at 220 West C Street,  
 9 San Diego, CA 92101, was originally built by the County of San Diego as a  
 10 maximum-security correctional facility. It has a capacity of 725 beds,<sup>18</sup> and as of  
 11 April 2019, it had an average daily population of 676 detainees.<sup>19</sup>

12 43. In 1999, GEO<sup>20</sup> leased the facility from the County,<sup>21</sup> and GEO began  
 13 housing USMS detainees at Western Region in 2000.

14 44. USMS renewed its contract with GEO on November 14, 2017, for a base  
 15 period of approximately two years. The contract included four options that USMS  
 16 could exercise to continue the services by two years per option. Thus, the contract’s  
 17 period of performance is 10 years, through September 30, 2027.

18  
 19 <sup>17</sup> U.S. MARSHALS SERV., USMS DETENTION POPULATION 2 (Apr. 31, 2019)  
 20 [hereinafter DETENTION POPULATION], <https://bit.ly/2BmUFMp>. This excludes  
 21 facilities located in other States used by the Marshals to house detainees from this  
 22 District, to which Section 2 of AB-32 does not apply. It also excludes  
 intergovernmental service agreement facilities with an average daily population  
 below 50 because publicly available data does not identify these facilities and the  
 number of individuals detained in them is minimal. These facilities are omitted from  
 all data provided in this Complaint unless otherwise stated.

23 <sup>18</sup> Capacity numbers provided herein refer to capacity as stated in the relevant  
 24 contract, unless a source other than the contract is indicated.

25 <sup>19</sup> DETENTION POPULATION, *supra* note 17, at 2.

26 <sup>20</sup> At that time, GEO was called the Wackenhut Corrections Corporation  
 (WCC) and was part of the Wackenhut Corporation. WCC spun off from the  
 Wackenhut Corporation in 2003 and changed its name to The GEO Group.

27 <sup>21</sup> In June 2019, the County of San Diego agreed to convey the premises of the  
 28 Western Region Detention Facility to Holland Acquisition Co., LLC. Nonetheless,  
 GEO’s lease term runs through March 31, 2029.

1           45. USMS exercised its first option under the contract on October 1, 2019,  
2 thereby continuing GEO's contract with USMS through September 30, 2021.

3           46. Absent relief from this Court, AB-32 will force GEO to close the  
4 Western Region Detention Facility upon the expiration of GEO's contract with  
5 USMS.

6           47. The Western Region Detention Facility is one of only two USMS  
7 facilities currently located in San Diego, California. The other, Metropolitan  
8 Correction Center (MCC) San Diego, is a Federal Bureau of Prisons facility located  
9 at 808 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101. As of April 2019, MCC San Diego has  
10 an average daily population of 779 detainees.<sup>22</sup>

11           48. The next-closest USMS facility outside of San Diego—Otay Mesa  
12 Detention Center—is also privately run. It is primarily used by U.S. Immigration and  
13 Customs Enforcement to house aliens and is described more fully below.

14           49. Thus, if no privately run USMS detention facilities were permitted in  
15 California, there would be only one USMS detention facility in the San Diego area  
16 (i.e., MCC San Diego).<sup>23</sup>

17           50. Other than the single non-private USMS San Diego facility, the next-  
18 closest non-private USMS facilities are located approximately 90 miles away from  
19 San Diego in Santa Ana, California. The two USMS facilities in Santa Ana had a  
20 combined average daily population of 213 in April 2019, less than one-third the  
21 average daily population of the Western Region Detention Facility.<sup>24</sup>

22           **B. El Centro Service Processing Center**

23           51. The El Centro Service Processing Center, located at 1115 North  
24 Imperial Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243, has a capacity of 512 beds.

25           ///

26           <sup>22</sup> DETENTION POPULATION, *supra* note 17, at 2.

27           <sup>23</sup> *Id.*

28           <sup>24</sup> *Id.*

1           52. El Centro is owned by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,  
2 which has authorized USMS to use the facility for USMS detainees.

3           53. GEO was awarded a contract to operate El Centro on December 23,  
4 2019. The base contract period is for two years, starting on December 23, 2019, with  
5 the Marshals retaining the authority to exercise three additional two-year options and  
6 one nine-month option. Thus, the El Centro contract's period of performance runs  
7 through September 25, 2028.

8           54. Absent relief from this Court, AB-32 will force GEO to close the  
9 El Centro Service Processing Center upon the expiration of GEO's contract with  
10 USMS.

11           55. The effect of AB-32 on federal criminal law enforcement will not be  
12 limited to USMS facilities. Any other federal facility operated by private contractors  
13 would have to close. For example, the Taft Correctional Institution, located at 1500  
14 Cadet Road, Taft, CA 93268, has a capacity of 2,500 beds and is operated by  
15 Management & Training Corporation (MTC).<sup>25</sup> This facility, which houses aliens  
16 convicted of felonies, would likewise have to be shut down under AB-32 at the  
17 conclusion of its present contract expiring January 31, 2020, and a two-month  
18 extension expiring March 31, 2020.

### 19 **III. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Facilities**

20           56. In November 2002, Congress assigned the border-enforcement  
21 functions of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service to the newly created  
22 Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, housed within the Department of  
23 Homeland Security.<sup>26</sup> The Bureau began operations in March 2003 and was renamed  
24 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in March 2007.<sup>27</sup>

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>25</sup> Management & Training Corporation, *Taft Correctional Institution*,  
<https://bit.ly/34Ye1DG> (last visited Dec. 30, 2019).

27 <sup>26</sup> U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENF'T, CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF ICE  
(Mar. 1, 2019), <https://bit.ly/35Jas68>.

28 <sup>27</sup> *Id.*

1           57. Congress has authorized or required the detention of aliens under several  
2 different statutes and conditions. *See, e.g.*, 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii),  
3 1225(b)(2)(A), 1226(a), 1226(c); *see also Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 138 S. Ct. 830,  
4 836–38 (2018).

5           58. Congress has also directed that “[t]he Attorney General shall arrange for  
6 appropriate places of detention for aliens detained pending removal or a decision on  
7 removal,” 8 U.S.C. § 1231(g)(1), and it has instructed that ICE “shall consider the  
8 availability for purchase or lease of any existing prison, jail, detention center, or other  
9 comparable facility suitable for [detention]” “[p]rior to initiating any project for the  
10 construction of any new detention facility,” *id.* § 1231(g)(2). Thus, like USMS’s  
11 authority under Section 4013(a)(3), Section 1231(g)(2) authorizes ICE to use private  
12 contractors to arrange for detention. *See United States v. California*, 921 F.3d 865,  
13 882 n.7 (9th Cir. 2019).

14           59. Pursuant to this authority, ICE “manages and oversees the nation’s civil  
15 immigration detention system.”<sup>28</sup>

16           60. Whereas ICE’s immigration-enforcement efforts are usually aimed at  
17 the interior of the United States, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) enforces  
18 immigration law at the border.<sup>29</sup>

19           61. According to Matthew Albence, the Acting Director of ICE: “Typically,  
20 when an alien is apprehended by CBP, they are transferred to ICE custody pending  
21 removal proceedings. However, ICE’s resources have been overburdened by the  
22 record numbers of CBP apprehensions at the southwest border . . . .”<sup>30</sup>

23 ///

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>28</sup> U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENF’T, DETENTION MANAGEMENT (Dec. 18,  
2019), <https://bit.ly/2ZvGnGO>.

26 <sup>29</sup> STATEMENT OF MATTHEW T. ALBENCE, ACTING DIR., U.S. IMMIGRATION &  
27 CUSTOMS ENF’T, THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET REQUEST 3 (July 25,  
2019) [hereinafter ALBENCE STATEMENT], <https://bit.ly/2Bllfp9>.

28 <sup>30</sup> *Id.* at 4.

1           62. As of July 2019, ICE was “detaining over 53,000 single adults, and there  
2 [were] approximately 8,000 single adults in CBP custody awaiting processing or  
3 transfer to ICE custody.”<sup>31</sup>

4           63. According to Acting Director Albence, “[t]he influx [of aliens] at the  
5 border has especially strained ICE’s detention resources . . . . Comparing FY 2019  
6 year-to-date with FY 2018 year-to-date, there has been a 79% percent increase  
7 (184,461 to 330,049) in intakes resulting from CBP apprehensions . . . .”<sup>32</sup> These  
8 apprehensions “have taxed ICE’s already overburdened detention system.”<sup>33</sup>

9           64. “[I]n FY2018 the number of book-ins to ICE facilities was nearly  
10 400,000,” yet “[a]s of July 12, 2018, ICE’s detention capacity was approximately  
11 45,700 beds.”<sup>34</sup>

12           65. “Filling every available bed in a detention facility would necessitate  
13 housing detainees of varied threat levels together, posing serious safety concerns for  
14 detainees, officers, staff, and facility owners. ICE consequently maintains a target  
15 utilization rate of about 85 to 90% of total facility capacity,” which “also allows for  
16 flexibility to respond to emergencies or other unforeseen circumstances that might  
17 require immediate availability of detention beds (e.g., charter flight cancellations,  
18 surges, or smuggling loads).”<sup>35</sup> In the facilities ICE currently uses, “ICE meets or  
19 exceeds its target utilization in almost every instance.”<sup>36</sup>

20 ///

---

21  
22           <sup>31</sup> *Id.*

23           <sup>32</sup> *Id.*

24           <sup>33</sup> U.S. IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENF’T, DEP’T OF HOMELAND SEC., BUDGET  
25 OVERVIEW: FISCAL YEAR 2020 CONGRESSIONAL JUSTIFICATION ICE-O&S-17 (2019)  
[hereinafter 2020 CONGRESSIONAL JUSTIFICATION], <https://bit.ly/336G3g3>.

26           <sup>34</sup> AUDREY SINGER, CONG. RESEARCH SERV., R45804, IMMIGRATION:  
27 ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION (ATD) PROGRAMS 14 (July 8, 2019),  
28 <https://bit.ly/2ojQNSE>.

<sup>35</sup> CONGRESSIONAL JUSTIFICATION, *supra* note 33, at ICE-O&S-119.

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

1           66. Across the country, ICE’s ability to house detainees is “already dire.”<sup>37</sup>  
 2 As then-Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Kevin K. McAleenan, said in April  
 3 2019: “It’s clear that all of our resources are being stretched thin. The system is full,  
 4 and we are beyond capacity[.]”<sup>38</sup> Homeland Security officials “are struggling to  
 5 identify new locations where migrants can be held in detention.”<sup>39</sup>

6           67. Thus, in ICE’s determination, “additional ICE detention capacity is  
 7 necessary” to meet the surge of aliens detained at the border.<sup>40</sup> Indeed, “[a]n increase  
 8 in detention capacity is critical to supporting ICE’s ability to apprehend, detain, and  
 9 remove aliens.”<sup>41</sup>

10           68. “Due to its very limited detention capacity, ICE must generally reserve  
 11 its detention space for those who pose a national security, public safety, or flight  
 12 risk.”<sup>42</sup>

13           69. There are currently four dedicated ICE detention facilities in the State  
 14 of California:

- 15           • Adelanto ICE Processing Center, located at 10400 Rancho Road,  
 16 Adelanto, CA 92301, with a capacity of 1,940 beds.
- 17           • Imperial Regional Detention Facility, located at 1572 Gateway  
 18 Road, Calexico, CA 92231, with a capacity of 704 beds;
- 19           • Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center, located at 425 Golden State  
 20 Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301, with a capacity of 400 beds; and

21 ///

---

23           <sup>37</sup> Caitlin Dickerson, *ICE Faces Migrant Detention Crunch as Border Chaos*  
 24 *Spills Into Interior of the Country*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 22,  
 2019)<https://nyti.ms/2BEKvGS>.

25           <sup>38</sup> *Id.*

26           <sup>39</sup> *Id.*

27           <sup>40</sup> ALBENCE STATEMENT, *supra* note 29, at 4.

28           <sup>41</sup> 2020 CONGRESSIONAL JUSTIFICATION, *supra* note 33, at ICE-O&S-16.

<sup>42</sup> ALBENCE STATEMENT, *supra* note 29, at 5.

- Otay Mesa Detention Center, located at 7488 Calzada de la Fuente, San Diego, CA 92231, with a capacity of 1,994 beds.<sup>43</sup>

70. All four of these dedicated ICE detention facilities are privately run. Two of the facilities—Adelanto and Mesa Verde—are owned by GEO or a GEO subsidiary and operated by GEO pursuant to contracts with ICE.<sup>44</sup>

71. In addition, ICE has entered into contracts to convert three other facilities into dedicated ICE detention centers:

- Central Valley Modified Community Correctional Facility (MCCF), located at 254 Taylor Avenue, McFarland, CA 93250, with a capacity of 700 beds. This facility is an annex to the Mesa Verde facility;
- Desert View MCCF, located at 10450 Rancho Rd, Adelanto, CA 92301, with a capacity of 750 beds. This facility is an annex to the Adelanto facility;
- Golden State MCCF, located at 611 Frontage Road, McFarland, CA 93250, with a capacity of 700 beds. This facility is an annex to the Mesa Verde facility.

72. All three of these new, dedicated ICE detention facilities are owned by GEO or a GEO subsidiary and operated by GEO pursuant to contracts with ICE.

///

///

///

///

---

<sup>43</sup> ERO CUSTODY MGMT. DIV., AUTHORIZED DEDICATED FACILITY LIST (Dec. 2, 2019), <https://bit.ly/2PXHNmM>. All ADP data is through December 2, 2019. Capacity number for Otay Mesa taken from News Release, *CoreCivic Reports Third Quarter 2019 Financial Results* (Nov. 6, 2019), <https://bit.ly/2YmBPzJ>.

<sup>44</sup> GEO's subsidiary, CPT Operating Partnership, L.P., owns some of GEO's facilities.

1           **A.     Adelanto ICE Processing Center and Desert View MCCF**

2                   **1.     Adelanto ICE Processing Center**

3           73.     The Adelanto ICE Processing Center was originally built by the City of  
4 Adelanto as a correctional facility. GEO purchased the eastern portion of the facility  
5 in 2008, and built the western portion in two phases in 2010 and 2015.

6           74.     In May 2011, ICE entered into an intergovernmental service agreement  
7 (IGSA) with the City of Adelanto to house detainees, and the City contracted with  
8 GEO that same month to carry out the IGSA.

9           75.     The City of Adelanto notified ICE and GEO on March 27, 2019, that it  
10 would be terminating its contract with ICE effective June 2019.

11           76.     ICE then entered into a contract directly with GEO to continue operating  
12 the Adelanto facility. The contract between ICE and GEO, which was signed on June  
13 25, 2019, was due to expire on March 25, 2020.

14           77.     On December 19, 2019, ICE entered into a new contract with GEO to  
15 continue operating the Adelanto facility. The contract has a period of performance  
16 starting on December 20, 2019, and ending December 19, 2034. ICE has the option  
17 of terminating the contract early every five years, with the first such option occurring  
18 on December 20, 2024.

19           78.     GEO has continued to operate the Adelanto facility under the terms of  
20 the new ICE contract since December 20, 2019, in much the same manner as it was  
21 operating prior to signing the new contract.

22                   **2.     Desert View MCCF**

23           79.     Desert View MCCF is currently a prison owned and operated by GEO  
24 under contract with CDCR. CDCR has notified GEO that it will terminate its contract  
25 with GEO effective March 31, 2020.

26           80.     On September 20, 2019, ICE executed a modification to its Adelanto  
27 contract to incorporate the Desert View facility as an “annex.”

28     ///

1           81. The Desert View facility is now incorporated into the same contract as  
2 the Adelanto facility, with a period of performance beginning on December 20, 2019  
3 and continuing through December 20, 2034. ICE has the option of terminating the  
4 contract early every five years, with the first such option occurring on December 20,  
5 2024.

6           82. Under the contract, GEO is obligated to immediately begin “Pre-  
7 Transition/Mobilization” activity at Desert View, with a period of performance  
8 beginning on from December 20, 2019, during which it must begin preparing the  
9 facility to receive ICE detainees. GEO began that process as soon as the contract  
10 became effective.

11           83. GEO has continued to operate the Desert View facility under the new  
12 ICE contract since December 20, 2019, even as it concurrently phases out CDCR  
13 operations at Desert View.

14           **B. Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center, Central Valley MCCF,  
15 and Golden State MCCF**

16           **1. Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center**

17           84. The Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center was originally built as a  
18 minimum-security correctional facility. It has been owned and operated by GEO  
19 since 2015.

20           85. In January 2015, ICE entered into an IGSA with the City of McFarland  
21 to house ICE detainees, and that same month, the City contracted with GEO to carry  
22 out the IGSA.

23           86. The City of McFarland notified ICE on December 19, 2018, that it  
24 would be terminating its contract with ICE effective March 2019. The City had  
25 notified GEO on November 30, 2018, of its intent to terminate the IGSA, stating that  
26 it “ha[d] been a satisfactory arrangement for the City until recent adoption by the  
27 State of California of legislation impacting facilities such as Mesa Verde,

28       ///

1 including . . . AB 103 and the recent demands by the State Attorney General and  
2 Auditor relating to inquiries authorized under [AB-103, *inter alia*].”

3 87. On March 5, 2019, ICE entered into a contract directly with GEO to  
4 continue operating the Mesa Verde facility. The contract between ICE and GEO was  
5 due to expire on March 18, 2020.

6 88. On December 19, 2019, ICE entered into a new contract with GEO to  
7 continue operating the Mesa Verde facility. The contract has a period of performance  
8 starting on December 20, 2019, and ending December 19, 2034. ICE has the option  
9 of terminating the contract early every five years, with the first such option occurring  
10 on December 20, 2024.

11 89. GEO has continued to operate the Mesa Verde facility under the terms  
12 of the new ICE contract since December 20, 2019, in much the same manner as it  
13 was operating prior to signing the new contract.

## 14 2. Central Valley MCCF

15 90. Central Valley MCCF is a GEO-owned prison previously operated  
16 under contract with CDCR. CDCR terminated its contract with GEO on July 10,  
17 2019, effective September 30, 2019.

18 91. On September 20, 2019, ICE executed a modification to its Mesa Verde  
19 contract to incorporate the Central Valley facility as an “annex.”

20 92. The Central Valley facility is now incorporated into the Mesa Verde  
21 contract, with a period of performance starting on December 20, 2019, and ending  
22 December 19, 2034. ICE has the option of terminating the contract early every five  
23 years, with the first such option occurring on December 20, 2024.

24 93. Under the contract, GEO is obligated to immediately begin “Pre-  
25 Transition/Mobilization” activity at Central Valley, with a period of performance  
26 beginning on December 20, 2019, during which it must begin preparing the facility  
27 to receive ICE detainees. GEO began that process as soon as the contract became  
28 effective.

1           94.    GEO has continued to operate the Central Valley facility under the terms  
2 of the new ICE contract since December 20, 2019.

### 3                   **3.    Golden State MCCF**

4           95.    Golden State MCCF is currently a prison owned and operated by GEO  
5 under contract with CDCR. CDCR has notified GEO that it will terminate its contract  
6 with GEO effective June 30, 2020.

7           96.    On September 20, 2019, ICE executed a modification to its Mesa Verde  
8 contract to incorporate the Golden State facility as an “annex.”

9           97.    The Golden State facility is now incorporated into the Mesa Verde  
10 contract, with a period of performance starting on December 20, 2019, and ending  
11 December 19, 2034. ICE has the option of terminating the contract early every five  
12 years, with the first such option occurring on December 20, 2024.

13           98.    Under the contract, GEO is obligated to immediately begin “Pre-  
14 Transition/Mobilization” activity at Golden State, with a period of performance  
15 beginning on from December 20, 2019, during which it must begin preparing the  
16 facility to receive ICE detainees. GEO began that process as soon as the contract  
17 became effective.

18           99.    GEO has continued to operate the Golden State facility under the new  
19 ICE contract since December 20, 2019, even as it concurrently phases out CDCR  
20 operations at Golden State.

## 21                   **C.    Non-GEO Privately Operated ICE Detention Facilities**

### 22                   **1.    Imperial Regional Detention Facility**

23           100.   Imperial Regional Detention Facility was, until recently, operated  
24 pursuant to an IGSA between ICE and the City of Holtville, California. The City had  
25 contracted with MTC—which owns the facility—to operate Imperial Regional since  
26 September 22, 2014.

27           101.   ICE terminated the IGSA effective September 21, 2019, and it entered  
28 into a contract directly with MTC to continue operating Imperial Regional effective

1 September 22, 2019. ICE entered into a new contract with MTC that became effective  
2 on December 20, 2019, with a base period of performance running through December  
3 19, 2024. The contract contains two five-year options, so the contract expires on  
4 December 19, 2034.

## 5 **2. Otay Mesa Detention Center**

6 102. Otay Mesa Detention Center is jointly used by USMS and ICE. It is  
7 owned and operated by CoreCivic, formerly known as Corrections Corporation of  
8 America, under a direct contract with ICE. ICE entered into a new contract with  
9 CoreCivic that became effective on December 20, 2019, with a base period of  
10 performance running through December 19, 2024. The contract contains two five-  
11 year options, so the contract expires on December 19, 2034.

### 12 **D. Non-Dedicated ICE Detention Facilities**

13 103. In addition to the dedicated ICE detention facilities in California, there  
14 are two facilities in California that, while not dedicated to ICE detention (and thus  
15 shared with local governmental entities housing non-ICE detainees), are nonetheless  
16 authorized for ICE's use pursuant to IGSA's:

- 17 • Glendale Police Department, located at 131 North Isabel Street,  
18 Glendale, CA 91206. This facility is owned by the City of  
19 Glendale and operated by the Glendale Police Department.
- 20 • Yuba County Jail, located at 215 5th Street, Marysville, CA  
21 95901, with a capacity of 220 beds. This facility is owned by  
22 Yuba County and operated by Yuba County Sheriff's  
23 Department.<sup>45</sup>

24  
25 <sup>45</sup>Although ICE's December 2, 2019, list of non-dedicated facilities continues  
26 to list the Orange County Intake Release Facility, that facility (on information and  
27 belief) was only used for intake and processing of detainees who were ultimately  
28 housed at the James A. Musick and Theo Lacy facilities. The contracts for those  
facilities were terminated by the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 2019 and  
are no longer used by ICE. It is thus unclear whether the Intake facility remains a  
viable non-dedicated ICE detention facility, and its ADP for FY 2020 was zero.

1           104. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Glendale Police Department facility has had an  
2 average daily population of 0 detainees. ICE “rarely uses the jail.”<sup>46</sup>

3           105. It is unclear whether the Yuba County Jail will maintain its contract with  
4 the Federal Government.<sup>47</sup>

5           106. Thus, if no privately operated detention facilities were permitted in  
6 California, there would effectively be only one facility in the State that ICE could use  
7 for detainees—the Yuba County Jail—which has a capacity of only 220 beds and  
8 whose future is in doubt—and there would be *no* detention facilities available to the  
9 Federal Government in Southern California along the U.S.-Mexico border. The  
10 combined capacity of ICE’s seven privately operated detention facilities in California  
11 is 7,188.

12           107. Absent relief from this Court, AB-32 will force GEO to close the  
13 Adelanto, Central Valley, Desert View, Golden State, and Mesa Verde facilities upon  
14 the expiration of GEO’s contracts with ICE, and other private contractors will be  
15 forced to close their dedicated ICE detention facilities as well. Thus, under AB-32,  
16 there would be no dedicated ICE detention facilities in the State of California.

17 **IV. Financial Impact of AB-32 on GEO**

18           108. If AB-32 forces GEO to close its USMS and ICE detention facilities in  
19 California, GEO would lose an average of over \$250 million per year in revenue over  
20 the next fifteen years.

21           109. GEO invested over \$300 million in acquiring, constructing, outfitting,  
22 and otherwise making ready for use its USMS and ICE detention facilities in  
23 California, all of which would be lost if GEO were no longer able to use those

24 ///

---

26 <sup>46</sup> Bradley Zint, *Glendale Police Vow Not To Enforce Federal Immigration*  
27 *Laws*, L.A. TIMES (Apr. 1, 2017), <https://lat.ms/31skq8o>.

28 <sup>47</sup> Thompson & Taxin, *supra* note 8 (stating that “Yuba County in northern  
California still has a contract to detain immigrants but may also soon end it”).

1 facilities for their intended purposes. The replacement cost of these detention  
2 facilities is approximately \$500 million.

3 110. Thus, if AB-32 forces GEO to close its USMS and ICE detention  
4 facilities in California, GEO could lose over \$4 billion in capital investment and  
5 future revenue over the next fifteen years.

6 **COUNT I: VIOLATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY**  
7 **(DIRECT REGULATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT)**

8 111. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations of the  
9 preceding paragraphs.

10 112. GEO, as a contractor for the United States, enjoys and is clothed in the  
11 Federal Government’s intergovernmental immunity. *See Goodyear Atomic Corp. v.*  
12 *Miller*, 486 U.S. 174, 180–81 (1988); *Boeing Co. v. Movassaghi*, 768 F.3d 832, 839  
13 (9th Cir. 2014).

14 113. Under the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, “the  
15 activities of the Federal Government are free from regulation by any state.” *Mayo v.*  
16 *United States*, 319 U.S. 441, 445 (1943); *see also North Dakota v. United States*,  
17 495 U.S. 423, 451–52 (1990) (Brennan, J., concurring in the judgment in part and  
18 dissenting in part) (“[T]hose dealing with the Federal Government enjoy immunity  
19 from state control . . . when a state law actually and substantially interferes with  
20 specific federal programs.”).

21 114. By prohibiting federal private detention facilities in the State, AB-32  
22 substantially interferes with Federal Government operations.

23 115. AB-32 substantially interferes with USMS’s ability to carry out its  
24 detention responsibilities for the Federal Government.

25 116. AB-32 substantially interferes with ICE’s ability to carry out its  
26 detention responsibilities for the Federal Government.

27 117. Congress has not authorized the State to regulate the Federal  
28 Government’s activities with respect to federal detention facilities like GEO’s.

1           118. AB-32 is unconstitutional and invalid as applied to GEO’s operations  
2 on behalf of USMS and ICE.

3           **COUNT II: VIOLATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY**  
4           **(DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT)**

5           119. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations of the  
6 preceding paragraphs.

7           120. A state law is invalid “if it operates so as to discriminate against the  
8 [Federal] Government or those with whom it deals.” *United States v. City of Detroit*,  
9 355 U.S. 466, 473 (1958).

10          121. AB-32 prohibits the operation of private detention facilities in the State,  
11 *see* CAL. PENAL CODE § 9501, but it then exempts essentially all private detention  
12 facilities under contract with the State, *see id.* §§ 9502, 9505(b).

13          122. For example, Section 9505(b) of the California Penal Code exempts  
14 from its general prohibition *state* private detention facilities used “to provide housing  
15 for state prison inmates in order to comply with the requirements of any court-ordered  
16 population cap,” *id.* § 5003.1(e), and because the population cap in *Brown v. Plata*  
17 applies to the State’s prison system, AB-32 effectively exempts the entire California  
18 prison system from its prohibition on private detention facilities.

19          123. By effectively targeting *only* federal private detention facilities, AB-32  
20 discriminates against the Federal Government. *See Dawson v. Steager*, 139 S. Ct.  
21 698, 705–06 (2019); *Boeing*, 768 F.3d at 842–43.

22          124. AB-32 is unconstitutional and invalid as applied to GEO’s operations  
23 on behalf of USMS and ICE.

24          **COUNT III: FEDERAL PREEMPTION OF INCONSISTENT STATE LAW**

25          125. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations of the  
26 preceding paragraphs.

27          126. Federal immigration law provides that “[t]he Attorney General shall  
28 arrange for appropriate places of detention for aliens detained pending removal or a

1 decision on removal,” and “[w]hen United States facilities are unavailable or  
2 facilities adapted or suitably located for detention are unavailable for rental, the  
3 Attorney General may expend . . . amounts necessary to acquire land and to acquire,  
4 build, remodel, repair, and operate facilities . . . necessary for detention.” 8 U.S.C.  
5 § 1231(g)(1). Congress has instructed that ICE “shall consider the availability for  
6 purchase *or lease* of any existing prison, jail, detention center, or other comparable  
7 facility suitable for [detention]” before beginning any project to develop a new  
8 detention facility. 8 U.S.C. § 1231(g)(2) (emphasis added).

9 127. In enacting Section 1231(g)(1), “Congress . . . placed the responsibility  
10 of determining where aliens are detained within the discretion of the Attorney  
11 General.” *Comm. of Cent. Am. Refugees v. INS*, 795 F.2d 1434, 1440 (9th Cir. 1986).  
12 That discretion is “broad.” *Id.*

13 128. With respect to federal prisoners detained by the U.S. Marshals Service,  
14 Congress has authorized the Attorney General, “in support of United States prisoners  
15 in non-Federal institutions,” to “make payments from funds appropriated for Federal  
16 prisoner detention for,” among other things, “the housing, care, and security of  
17 persons held in custody of a United States marshal pursuant to Federal law under  
18 agreements with State or local units of government *or contracts with private entities.*”  
19 18 U.S.C. § 4013(a)(3) (emphasis added).

20 129. Congress further authorized the Attorney General, in his “reasonable  
21 discretion,” to carry out the activities of the Department of Justice “through any  
22 means,” including “through contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements with non-  
23 Federal parties.” 28 U.S.C. § 530C(a)(4).

24 130. Where Congress delegates broad discretion to an Executive Branch  
25 official to achieve some end, state laws are preempted when they frustrate the natural  
26 effect of that delegation and blunt the consequences of Executive acts taken pursuant  
27 to the delegation. *See Crosby v. Nat’l Foreign Trade Council*, 530 U.S. 363, 372–  
28 377 (2000).



1           138. Because GEO’s contract with the Federal Government for the Western  
2 Region Detention Facility has a period of performance ending on September 30,  
3 2027, AB-32 does not apply to the Western Region contract prior to that date.

4           139. Plaintiff’s contract with USMS for the El Centro Service Processing  
5 Center was executed on December 23, 2019, and it was effective December 23, 2019.  
6 This facility was, therefore, operating under a contract in effect before January 1,  
7 2020.

8           140. Because GEO’s contract with the Federal Government for the El Centro  
9 Service Processing Center has a period of performance ending on September 25,  
10 2028, AB-32 does not apply to the El Centro contract prior to that date.

11           141. Plaintiff’s contracts with USMS for the Western Region and El Centro  
12 facilities are valid through at least September 30, 2027, and September 25, 2028,  
13 respectively.

14           142. Plaintiff’s contracts with ICE for the Adelanto, Central Valley, Desert  
15 View, Golden State, and Mesa Verde facilities were executed on December 19, 2019,  
16 and they were effective December 20, 2019. These facilities were, therefore,  
17 operating under contracts in effect before January 1, 2020.

18           143. Because GEO’s contracts with the Federal Government for the  
19 Adelanto, Central Valley, Desert View, Golden State, and Mesa Verde facilities have  
20 a period of performance ending December 19, 2034, AB-32 does not apply to any of  
21 these contracts prior to that date.

22           144. Plaintiff’s contracts with ICE for the Adelanto, Central Valley, Desert  
23 View, Golden State, and Mesa Verde facilities are valid through at least  
24 December 19, 2034.

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

g. Granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: December 30, 2019

By: /s/ Michael B. McClellan

Michael B. McClellan, CBN 241570  
NEWMEYER & DILLION LLP  
895 Dove Street, Fifth Floor  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
Telephone: (949) 854-7000  
Email: Michael.McClellan@ndlf.com

Charles J. Cooper,\* DC Bar No. 248070  
Michael W. Kirk,\* DC Bar No. 424648  
J. Joel Alicea,\* DC Bar No. 1022784  
Steven J. Lindsay,\* VA Bar No. 92363  
COOPER & KIRK, PLLC  
1523 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone: (202) 220-9600  
Email: ccooper@cooperkirk.com  
*\*Pro Hac Vice Applications Forthcoming*

Michael W. Battin, CBN 183870  
NAVIGATO & BATTIN, LLP  
755 West A Street, Suite 150  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Telephone: (619) 233-5365  
Email: mike@navbat.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiff The GEO Group, Inc.*

