

**Individual Rules and Practices Regarding Civil Matters in which the
United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York or the
United States Department of Justice Represents a Party**

The following rules shall govern Judge Vargas's recusal from civil matters in which the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York ("USAO-SDNY") or the United States Department of Justice represents a party. The USAO-SDNY shall ensure that each Assistant United States Attorney ("AUSA") in the Civil Division is familiar with these rules and applies them appropriately. Nothing in these rules prevents any party from making a recusal motion, on any applicable basis, in a case in which United States of America or its agencies or officers is a party, or the USAO-SDNY represents a party, even if that case falls outside of the recusal parameters identified below.

Judge Vargas served as the Deputy Chief of the Civil Division for the USAO-SDNY until November 18, 2024. She had supervisory authority and/or confidential information regarding matters pending in the Civil Division prior to that date. Accordingly, Judge Vargas has decided to recuse from any civil matter in which the USAO-SDNY had any involvement on or prior to November 18, 2024, including any arising from investigations commenced prior to that date. Government attorneys handling civil matters assigned to Judge Vargas shall consult the records and files of the USAO-SDNY to determine whether the matter or case falls within the recusal parameters set forth above.

Prior to any appearance before, or application made to, Judge Vargas in any civil matter in which the United States Attorney or an attorney from the U.S. Department of Justice represents a party—or in any event, no later than ten (10) calendar days from the assignment of any such matter to Judge Vargas—the Government attorney handling the matter shall file a letter on the docket indicating whether, based on the records of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the matter falls within the recusal parameters set forth above. Judge Vargas will promptly determine whether recusal is required, notify all parties, and, if necessary, request the Clerk of Court to randomly re-assign the matter to another judge. Attorneys for the Government should be prepared to affirm their compliance with these procedures at the first appearance before Judge Vargas in a given matter.