
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Crim. No. 24-267 (KMW)

against

**AMENDED APPLICATION FOR
EXTENSION OF TIME FOR DEFENDANT
TO OBTAIN NEW COUNSEL**

ERIC RIVERA,
ADRIENNE PONZO, and
JAMES WESSELS
Defendant

An Amended Application is hereby made on behalf of Eric Rivera for an Order extending for sixty days the time period for Eric Rivera to obtain new counsel. In support thereof, the defendant avers the following:

1. The Court previously granted the undersigned attorney's motion to withdraw. [DE 78] The order on withdrawal became effective on July 22, 2025, when Mr. Rivera obtained new counsel. Until that time the Court directed the undersigned attorney to remain on the case to protect Mr. Rivera's interests and assist him in any communications with the Court, or responses to any issues that could arise before new counsel was obtained.
2. The undersigned attorney received the following from Mr. Rivera with a request that he file this with the court, which is now being done. Counsel will inform Mr. Rivera of the Court's decision on this request.
3. The following is an exact copy of the email sent to counsel that Mr. Rivera requested be presented to the court:

Dear Judge Williams,

I am writing to respectfully request an extension of sixty (60) business days to secure new legal counsel in the above-referenced matter.

As Your Honor suggested during our previous court proceeding, I am seeking additional time to hire new counsel to properly represent my interests in this case. I am actively

working to identify and retain qualified legal representation, but require additional time to:

- Review my case materials with prospective counsel and complete the necessary retainer fee agreement.

I understand the importance of moving this matter forward in a timely manner and do not make this request lightly. However, securing competent representation is essential to ensure the proper administration of justice and protect my legal rights.

I respectfully request that the Court grant this extension and adjust any upcoming deadlines accordingly. I am prepared to appear at any hearing Your Honor deems necessary regarding this request.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Eric Rivera

4. Counsel for the United States, AUSA Daniel Friedman responded and requested that the defense inform the court that the Government objects:

The Government objects to the requested extension of time for Mr. Rivera to retain counsel. Since this matter was charged two years ago, Rivera has frequently delayed the proceedings by not engaging with his attorneys and by failing to timely retain new attorneys when provided ample time and opportunity to do so. In order to assess the appropriate next steps and to properly balance the interests of justice in a speedy trial with Rivera's Sixth Amendment rights, the Court should require Rivera to appear at the scheduled July 22, 2025 status conference and place on the record details of his efforts to retain counsel during the previous eight weeks

Dated: July 16, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
S/Philip L. Reizenstein
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