

1 [Condemning the Closure of the San Francisco Immigration Court and Urging the Department
2 of Justice to Keep it Open]

3 **Resolution condemning the systematic dismantling of the San Francisco immigration
4 court system and urging the Department of Justice to keep the San Francisco
5 Immigration Court open to guarantee due process for all immigrants seeking a path
6 towards citizenship.**

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8 WHEREAS, San Francisco is one of the biggest courts in the entire immigration court
9 system, under the Department of Justice and the Attorney General, where people pursue
10 asylum and fight deportation; and

11 WHEREAS, The court at Montgomery Street is an institution and a symbol of the rule
12 of law and judicial integrity and independence in this country, and for many immigrants, the
13 first real contact they have with our nation's justice system; and

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco's main immigration court is where the majority of the Bay
15 Area's asylum cases are heard, and is the largest of three courts that hear cases from the
16 Central Valley to the Oregon border; and

17 WHEREAS, The Executive Office of Immigration Review, the formal name of the
18 immigration court system, reported that San Francisco's Montgomery Street court would not
19 renew its lease, and is set to shutter by January 2027; and

20 WHEREAS, The Montgomery Street court, which began 2025 with 21 judges, now has
21 just four remaining after 13 were fired and four more retired, and there are 120,000 cases still
22 pending in the San Francisco court; and

23 WHEREAS, The Department of Justice has announced that it will consolidate
24 remaining staff in the Bay Area's other immigration courthouse in Concord, California, where
25 six of its 13 judges were fired in 2025 and there is a backlog of 6,000 cases; and

1 WHEREAS, Immigration law experts contend that if cases are reassigned out of San
2 Francisco, asylum seekers could be robbed of the critical services the city's legal aid
3 community provides; and

4 WHEREAS, The forced departure of so many immigration judges, combined with the
5 closure of the San Francisco court, will have a chilling effect on the fair adjudication of cases
6 and the ability of people to pursue asylum, suggesting that the Department of Justice's goal is
7 to speed up deportations rather than ensure people get a fair hearing; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 condemns the imminent closure of the San Francisco court; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
11 Francisco urges the Department of Justice to guarantee due process for all immigrants
12 seeking a path towards citizenship; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
14 Francisco urges the Department of Justice to keep the San Francisco Immigration Court
15 open.

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