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9

10 **THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
11 **FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
12

|   |   |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
|   | ) | 2:16-cv-185-TLN-DB                  |
| GARY WAYNE WELCHEN, <i>et al.</i> ,       | ) |                                     |
| Plaintiffs,                               | ) | PLAINTIFF’S RESPONSE IN             |
| v.  | ) | OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT’S           |
| THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO, <i>et al.</i> , | ) | MOTION TO DISMISS (ECF Doc. 36)     |
| Defendants.                               | ) | Hearing: January 12, 2017           |
|   | ) | Time: 2:00pm                        |
|   | ) | Department: Courtroom 2, 15th Floor |
|   | ) | Judge: Honorable Troy L. Nunley     |

23  
24  
25 **I. Introduction**

26 Rather than narrowly tailoring pretrial detention to only those circumstances in which an  
27 arrestee is a particular flight risk or danger, California law enacts a wealth-based system of  
28 pretrial release that ensures that people who are poor will languish behind bars while the rich can  
29 buy their freedom. *See, e.g.*, Cal. Penal Code § 1269b(c) (requiring, among other things, each  
30 county to enact an across-the-board bail schedule). The Attorney General — who supervisors  
31 the Sacramento County Sheriff and District Attorney — concedes that Sacramento County’s  
32 implementation of money bail may be unconstitutional, but argues that the state laws on their  
33 face pass strict scrutiny. Because the indiscriminate, blanket application of wealth-based  
34 detention embodied in the state laws violates Plaintiff’s substantive due process rights, Plaintiff  
35 respectfully requests that the Attorney General’s motion to dismiss be denied.

1 **II. The State’s Bail Laws Infringe on Plaintiff’s Fundamental Right to Pretrial**  
2 **Freedom and Do Not Survive Strict Scrutiny**

3 Under the state’s bail laws, pretrial freedom is denied to those who are too poor to pay  
4 their money bail amount. Cal Pen. Code § 1269b(c) (requiring county bail schedules); §  
5 1269b(b) (requiring detention of arrestees pursuant to a bail schedule). This wealth-based  
6 pretrial detention denies Plaintiff and Class Members their fundamental right to pretrial freedom,  
7 and because it is not “carefully limited to serve a compelling governmental interest,” *Lopez-*  
8 *Valenzuela v. Arpaio*, 770 F.3d 772, 777 (9th Cir. 2014), it must be stricken down.

9 Any infringement of pretrial freedom must pass strict scrutiny because the right to  
10 pretrial liberty is a fundamental right, and Defendant does not dispute this point. *Id.* at 780.  
11 Moreover, Defendant only defends against Plaintiff’s facial attack, which is embodied in Request  
12 for Relief F (ECF Doc. 31, p. 22), meaning that the remainder of Plaintiff’s claims (including his  
13 as applied challenge), are not opposed. Plaintiff’s argument will thus be limited to the facial  
14 invalidity of the money bail laws. Under the framework set forth in *Lopez-Valenzuela*, two  
15 separate analyses independently illustrate why the state’s bail laws do not survive strict scrutiny:  
16 (A) the bail provisions are not narrowly tailored to advance a compelling government interest,  
17 and (B) the bail provisions are excessive in relation to their purpose. Plaintiff need only succeed  
18 on one of these routes; in fact, both illustrate that the bail laws are unconstitutional.

19 **A. The State’s Bail Laws Are Not Narrowly Tailored to Advance a Compelling**  
20 **Government Interest**

21 When applying strict scrutiny to the denial of a fundamental right, this Court makes two  
22 inquiries: (i) whether the laws advance a compelling government interest and (ii) whether the  
23 laws are narrowly tailored to serve that interest. *See Lopez-Valenzuela*, 770 F.3d at 780.  
24 Defendant’s motion to dismiss sidesteps this analysis, but the close scrutiny required by  
25 precedent reveals that California’s bail laws are not narrowly tailored to the goal of securing

1 presence at trial. Instead, they are indiscriminate, blunt, and blanket restrictions against anyone  
2 too poor to pay money bail.

3 **i. The Only Conceivable Interest Is Securing Court Appearance,**  
4 **Because Money Bail Is Not Designed to Protect Public Safety**

5 The state's bail laws make evident that the only possible governmental interest they serve  
6 is securing court appearance; no part of the laws do anything to protect public safety. Although  
7 California law contains a preventative detention provision designed to detain those shown to be  
8 dangerous — Cal. Const. Art. I, Sec. 12, which is not challenged here — the money bail laws  
9 notably lack any provision for protecting the public. Importantly, Defendant makes no effort in  
10 her opening brief to suggest that the money bail laws advance public safety, nor could she  
11 reasonably do so.

12 The most telling illustration of the bail laws purpose is that an arrestee who pays money  
13 bail has the full bail amount returned to her *even if she breaks the law while released*. Cal. Pen.  
14 Code § 1305 (allowing forfeiture of bail only for failure to appear). If California wanted to use  
15 money bail to increase compliance with state law, it would not return money bail for those who  
16 commit new crimes. Ironically, in fact, a rearrest (and subsequent detention) virtually guarantees  
17 the return of the posted bail amount, because a detained arrestee will make all future court  
18 appearances. The fact that money bail does not disincentivize future crimes makes evident that  
19 the law is not targeted at protecting public safety.

20 Additionally, the structure of the money bail laws in California prioritize orders of money  
21 bail as the primary means of detention without any consideration of alternatives that would  
22 protect the public. The laws' emphasis on money bail ignores the many alternative options that  
23 might increase public safety, such as stay-away orders, counseling, alcohol or drug dependency  
24 programs, and so on. Indeed, the money bail laws allow counties like Sacramento to operate

1 pretrial justice without any meaningful pretrial services agency. The design of the laws actually  
2 creates an incentive for counties *not* to develop robust pretrial services departments, because the  
3 laws allow counties to rely on money bail as their one-size-fits-all pretrial justice system. The  
4 laws' total lack of provisions for pretrial services further highlights that the money bail clauses  
5 are not designed to advance public safety.

6 In addition to these reasons, perhaps the simplest evidence that the money bail laws are  
7 not designed to protect the public is that the laws create a system in every county by which every  
8 arrestee is released or detained based on money bail, even if there is no risk to others. The state  
9 laws do not allow for an exception whereby counties can release first-time arrestees, those who  
10 lack a long criminal history, those who have never committed a violent crime, or those who  
11 otherwise are unlikely to pose a danger to the community. Under state law, money bail must be  
12 imposed for every felony offense. Cal. Pen. Code § 1269b(c). Because no particularized inquiry  
13 is made to target money bail only to specific instances of dangerous, dangerous is not part of the  
14 governmental interest at stake.

15 Defendant may argue that it would be an administrative burden to make different pretrial  
16 detention laws for different arrestees. For example, refined laws that treat those arrested for  
17 victimless crimes, non-serious felonies, or non-violent crimes differently might be  
18 administratively cumbersome. Or laws that treat those with long criminal histories different than  
19 first-time offenders might be hard to administer. Any pretrial release laws that more specifically  
20 focus on danger to the public might require more resources from counties. Even if those claims  
21 are true, administrative convenience is not a compelling justification for restricting pretrial  
22 freedom, nor is it synonymous with protecting the public. The money bail laws might very well  
23 be designed for administrative convenience, but they are not designed to protect public safety,

1 and Defendant wisely makes no argument to the contrary.

2 Supreme Court and Ninth Circuit precedent has established that only two possible  
3 justifications can serve as compelling enough interests to deny the fundamental right to pretrial  
4 freedom: securing appearance at trial and protecting the public from a specific risk of  
5 dangerousness. *See United States v. Salerno*, 481 U.S. 739, 749–50 (1987); *Lopez-Valenzuela*,  
6 770 F.3d at 779. Because California’s money bail laws are not designed to protect the public,  
7 and because administrative convenience is not a compelling justification to deny pretrial  
8 freedom, the only remaining conceivable government interest is securing court appearance. This  
9 fact is perhaps obvious: the philosophy of money bail is that those wealthy enough to afford it  
10 give money bail to the county as collateral to incentivize future court appearances. By ensuring  
11 the return of money bail after all court appearances are made, California law makes plain its only  
12 motive: to enhance court appearance rates. *See, e.g.*, Cal. Pen. Code 1305 (allowing forfeiture of  
13 money bail only if court appearances are missed).

14 **ii. Far from Being Carefully Limited or Narrowly Tailored, the State’s**  
15 **Bail Laws Are Indiscriminate, Blanket Restrictions of Pretrial**  
16 **Freedom for Poor Arrestees**

17 Any infringement on the fundamental right to pretrial liberty must be “carefully limited”  
18 and “narrowly tailored.” *Lopez-Valenzuela*, 770 F.3d at 780. Getting arrestees to court is indeed  
19 a valid government interest, but the bail laws are not narrowly tailored to advance this interest.  
20 Instead, they are an indiscriminate, blanket detention order on those too poor to pay the  
21 exorbitant bail amounts set in the bail schedule.

22 California’s money bail laws allow release for someone who is rich, dangerous, and a  
23 flight risk while detaining someone who is poor, safe, and likely to appear in court. Money bail  
24 does not carefully delineate the circumstances under which any compelling governmental  
25 interest is satisfied because the only question that matters is whether an arrestee can afford her

1 money bail amount. The money bail laws allow thousands of poor arrestees to be detained, even  
2 if they show no particular risk of flight, solely because they are too poor to pay money bail.

3 Any stereotype or prejudice that people who are poor are necessarily an unmanageable  
4 flight risk lacks rational or empirical support and must be banished from this case. It is a sad  
5 reality that many people incorrectly (and perhaps subconsciously) fear that poor arrestees are  
6 more likely to skip court, but this prejudice is no justification for the blanket application of  
7 wealth-based detention imposed by California law. There is no evidence that ability to pay  
8 correlates closely with unmanageable flight risk or public safety. There is no acute problem of  
9 unmanageable flight risk or public safety that money bail tackles, because a person's wealth-  
10 status is not determinative of her likelihood of appearing for trial or threatening public safety.  
11 The money bail system applies to every case, regardless of how serious or minor the charges.  
12 The total lack of evidence that poor arrestees necessarily represent an across-the-board flight  
13 risks illustrates the lack of narrow tailoring in the money bail laws.

14 California's money bail laws are not individualized or based on specific evidence of  
15 flight risk. They do not take into account individual factors such as prior failures to appear.  
16 When the Supreme Court analyzed the Federal Bail Reform Act in *Salerno*, a crucial part of its  
17 analysis was the individualized and particularized focus on each defendant before any order of  
18 detention or conditions of release were imposed. *Salerno*, 481 U.S. at 750. *Salerno* also  
19 emphasized the importance of the federal bail law's limitation to "operate only on individuals  
20 who have been arrested for a specific category of extremely serious offenses." *Id.* California's  
21 system of imposing financial restrictions on release — which are impediments to pretrial  
22 freedom — is premised on its indiscriminate application that is, by definition, not narrowly  
23 tailored.

1 California law has chosen a wealth-based metric for pretrial freedom, but numerous  
2 alternatives could be employed. Instead of imposing money bail on all arrestees, California law  
3 could choose to release all arrestees (or all arrestees charged with non-serious crimes); it could  
4 release those arrestees without prior failures to appear; it could release arrestees who show no  
5 particularized concerns of flight risk or danger; or it could choose other non-wealth-based  
6 metrics.

7 Although particularized evidence is not the concern of California's across-the-board,  
8 categorical, and broad-based bail laws, the evidence offered in Plaintiff's complaint shows that  
9 numerous alternatives to money bail are more narrowly tailored to securing court appearance.  
10 For example, in Washington, D.C.'s pretrial justice system, no arrestee is given a money bail  
11 order; all are considered for release or detention on an individualized basis; over 90% of  
12 arrestees are released; effective pretrial supervision services are employed; and virtually all  
13 arrestees return to court (without committing any future crimes). ECF Doc. 31-2, ¶ 12. The  
14 federal system similarly employs an individualized analysis along with pretrial supervision  
15 services to ensure that arrestees return to court. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)–(i). This evidence of  
16 effective alternatives illustrates that California's scheme is not narrowly tailored to advance the  
17 interest of court appearance; other, less restrictive methods accomplish the same goal of high  
18 court appearance rates.

19 The obvious should not be overlooked in this case: the requirement of narrow tailoring is  
20 inconsistent with a state's goal of administrative convenience, and California has enacted money  
21 bail laws designed primarily for administrative convenience. By operation of California law,  
22 every county is required to enact an across-the-board bail schedule. In creating the maximally  
23 convenient system, California has ignored the important and fundamental nature of the right to

1 pretrial freedom, instead treating arrestees as faceless, nameless herds to be managed. The  
2 convenience of California’s money bail system lends itself to the efficient processing of human  
3 beings, all while undercutting the individualized focus, particularized consideration, narrow  
4 tailoring, and careful limitations that should always be used before imposing restrictions on  
5 pretrial liberty.

6 Defendant ignores the elephant in the room — the bail laws’ design for administrative  
7 convenience — at the expense of the many poor arrestees who are detained by a system that ties  
8 pretrial freedom to wealth-status. At the same time, Defendant sidesteps the rigorous analysis  
9 required by strict scrutiny, instead arguing that California’s bail laws do not categorically deny  
10 release to a class of arrestees. But California’s bail laws do categorically deny release to all  
11 those too poor to afford money bail. A quick examination of Sacramento’s money bail schedule  
12 — which includes many amounts in the thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars — reveals  
13 how, for the vast majority of felonies, money bail is a *de facto* order of detention for those who  
14 are poor. Failing to include any individualized, particularized analysis makes the application of  
15 the bail laws categorical.

16 Defendant also argues that California law allows multiple options for release for poor  
17 arrestees, but this argument also misses the point. Even if there are other options for release, any  
18 restrictions on pretrial freedom must be narrowly tailored and carefully limited only to those  
19 instances where necessary to guard against a particular risk. Imposition of money bail is a  
20 restriction against pretrial freedom and, even if the state makes other options available, it cannot  
21 impose money bail in the uniform, broad-based, indiscriminate manner required by the bail laws.

22 **B. California Law’s System of Wealth-Based Detention Is Excessive in Relation**  
23 **to the Goal of Increasing Court Appearance**

24 In addition to failing the narrow tailoring analysis, California’s bail laws violate



1 substantive due process because they are excessive in relation to their goal of increasing court  
2 appearance. *Lopez-Valenzuela* struck down Arizona’s system of pretrial detention as excessive,  
3 noting that there was no evidence of a pressing societal problem of flight risk. 770 F.3d at 783.  
4 Here too, there is no pressing societal problem that requires wealth-based detention, nor is there  
5 evidence that money bail is as effective as several alternative systems successfully used in other  
6 jurisdictions. *See, e.g.*, ECF Doc. 31-2.

7 *Lopez-Valenzuela* also highlighted the lack of individualized assessments in its  
8 excessiveness inquiry, and, like in Arizona, California’s wealth-based detention system is  
9 excessive because it does not provide for individualized assessments of risk level. By requiring  
10 an across-the-board money bail schedule, California law guarantees that arrestees will be subject  
11 to money bail orders without individualized consideration. Regardless of the offense of arrest,  
12 regardless of the lack of any history of failures to appear, and regardless of the lack of any risk of  
13 future flight risk, arrestees under California law are immediately subject to money bail.

14 California’s belated and costly mechanisms for release are insufficient mitigants to the  
15 indiscriminate denial of pretrial freedom to poor arrestees. The existence of private, for-profit  
16 bail bond companies is not an adequate leveling resource, for poor arrestees have to pay non-  
17 refundable deposits that alone may be out of reach for some arrestees. The fact that bail may be  
18 reduced or eliminated at some point is also not an adequate alternative remedy, as arrestees will  
19 have already spent time in jail solely based on their inability to pay their money bail before  
20 having access to those alternatives.

21 Even a few days in jail can have devastating consequences in a person’s life, such as the  
22 loss of a job, instability in housing, or the inability to arrange safe alternate care for dependent  
23 relatives. *See* ECF Doc. 31-4, pp. 1–3. Those detained pretrial suffer worse outcomes at trial

1 and sentencing than those released pretrial, even when charged with the same offenses.  
2 Christopher T. Lowenkamp *et al.*, *Investigating the Impact of Pretrial Detention on Sentencing*  
3 *Outcomes*, Laura and John Arnold Foundation, 3 (November 2013) available at  
4 [www.arnoldfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/LJAF\\_Report\\_hidden-costs\\_FNL.pdf](http://www.arnoldfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/LJAF_Report_hidden-costs_FNL.pdf);  
5 *see also* Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online, Table  
6 5.22.2010, <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t5222010.pdf>; S. Rosenmerkel, M. Durose,  
7 and D. Farole, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 2006–Statistical Tables* (Washington, DC:  
8 Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009), 1; Mary T. Phillips, *Pretrial Detention and Case Outcomes,*  
9 *Part 1: Nonfelony Cases*, New York Criminal Justice Agency, Inc., 55–56 (November 2007),  
10 [http://www.nycja.org/lwdcms/docview.php?module=reports&module\\_id=669&doc\\_name=doc](http://www.nycja.org/lwdcms/docview.php?module=reports&module_id=669&doc_name=doc).  
11 Pretrial detention can impede a defendant’s ability to meet with her lawyer, gather witnesses and  
12 evidence, and prepare for her own defense. ECF Doc. 31-5. Those detained pretrial are more  
13 likely to plead guilty just to shorten their jail time, even if innocent. Confinement also exposes  
14 arrestees to the risk of unsanitary conditions, infection, and other medical and safety emergencies  
15 prevalent in local jails. *See, e.g.*, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization in Prisons*  
16 *and Jails Reported by Inmates*, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4654> (finding  
17 that 3.2% of jail inmates reported being sexually abused during their current stay in jail).

18 For all of these reasons, the Supreme Court has consistently held that no person should  
19 spend a single day in jail solely because she cannot afford a monetary payment. *See, e.g.*,  
20 *Bearden v. Georgia*, 461 U.S. 660, 672–73 (1983), “[To] deprive [a] probationer of his  
21 conditional freedom simply because, through no fault of his own he cannot pay [a] fine . . .  
22 would be contrary to the fundamental fairness required by the Fourteenth Amendment.”); *Tate v.*  
23 *Short*, 401 U.S. 395, 398 (1971) (“[T]he Constitution prohibits the State from . . . automatically

1 converting [a fine] into a jail term solely because the defendant is indigent and cannot forthwith  
2 pay the fine in full.”); *Williams v. Illinois*, 399 U.S. 235, 242 (1970) (“By making the maximum  
3 confinement contingent upon one’s ability to pay, the State has visited different consequences on  
4 two categories of persons since the result is to make incarceration in excess of the statutory  
5 maximum applicable only to those without the requisite resources to satisfy the money portion of  
6 the judgment.”). The holdings of *Bearden*, *Tate*, and *Williams* establish an overarching maxim  
7 inherent in our system of justice: an individual cannot be jailed solely due to her inability to  
8 make a monetary payment.

9 Relying on this Supreme Court precedent, numerous courts have held that any kind of  
10 pay-or-jail scheme is unconstitutional when it operates to jail the poor. For example, in *Frazier*  
11 *v. Jordan*, 457 F.2d 726 (5th Cir. 1972), the court found that an alternative sentencing scheme of  
12 monetary payments or time in jail was unconstitutional because “[t]hose with means avoid  
13 imprisonment [but] the indigent cannot escape imprisonment.” *Id.* at 728; *see also see also*  
14 *United States v. Hines*, 88 F.3d 661, 664 (8th Cir. 1996) (“A defendant may not constitutionally  
15 be incarcerated solely because he cannot pay a fine through no fault of his own.”); *Barnett v.*  
16 *Hopper*, 548 F.2d 550, 554 (5th Cir.1977) (“To imprison an indigent when in the same  
17 circumstances an individual of financial means would remain free constitutes a denial of equal  
18 protection of the laws.”), *vacated as moot*, 439 U.S. 1041 (1978); *United States v. Estrada de*  
19 *Castillo*, 549 F.2d 583, 586 (9th Cir. 1976) (“[I]f a defendant, because of his financial inability to  
20 pay a fine, will be imprisoned longer than someone who has the ability to pay the fine, then the  
21 sentence is invalid.”).

22 District courts have recently reaffirmed the principle that, in the criminal justice system,  
23 people who are poor cannot be penalized because of their wealth-status. For example, in *United*

1 *States v. Flowers*, 946 F. Supp. 2d 1295 (M.D. Ala. 2013), a criminal defendant faced  
2 imprisonment because he could not afford the cost of release on home confinement monitoring.  
3 The court found — as the federal government conceded, *id.* at 1301 — that keeping a person in  
4 jail solely due to wealth-status would be “wrong” and that “the Constitution’s guarantee of equal  
5 protection is inhospitable to the Probation Department’s policy of making monitored home  
6 confinement available to only those who can pay for it.” *Id.* at 1302. The court acknowledged  
7 that “the principle that wealth and poverty have no place in sentencing decisions is nothing new.”  
8 *Id.* Other federal district courts have consistently enforced the same fundamental principle  
9 condemning the jailing of individuals who are poor simply due to their inability to pay a  
10 monetary sum. *See, e.g., United States v. Waldron*, 306 F. Supp. 2d 623, 629 (M.D. La. 2004)  
11 (“It is well established that our law does not permit the revocation of probation for a defendant’s  
12 failure to pay the amount of fines if that defendant is indigent or otherwise unable to pay. In  
13 other words, the government may not imprison a person solely because he lacked the resources  
14 to pay a fine.”).

15 Without hesitation, courts have applied the Constitution’s ban on wealth inequality in the  
16 criminal justice system to pretrial detention schemes. In *Pugh v. Rainwater*, 572 F.2d 1053,  
17 1056 (5th Cir. 1978) (*en banc*), the Fifth Circuit (consistent with every other federal court to  
18 closely examine the issue) emphasized:

19 We have no doubt that in the case of an indigent, whose appearance at trial could  
20 reasonably be assured by one of the alternate forms of release, pretrial  
21 confinement for inability to post money bail would constitute imposition of an  
22 excessive restraint.

23  
24 572 F.2d at 1058. *Rainwater* unambiguously prohibits the jailing of someone just because she  
25 cannot afford a money bail amount. *Id.* at 1056 (“At the outset, we accept the principle that  
26 imprisonment solely because of indigent status is invidious discrimination and not

1 constitutionally permissible.”). The court held: “The incarceration of those who cannot [afford a  
2 cash payment], without meaningful consideration of other possible alternatives, infringes on both  
3 due process and equal protection requirements.” *Id.* at 1057; *see also, e.g., Williams v. Farrior*,  
4 626 F.Supp. 983, 985 (S.D. Miss. 1986) (“[I]t is clear that a bail system which allows only  
5 monetary bail and does not provide for any meaningful consideration of other possible  
6 alternatives for indigent pretrial detainee infringes on both equal protection and due process  
7 requirements.”).

8         Several federal district courts have recently held that the Constitution’s ban on jailing  
9 someone based on wealth-status applies in full force to the use of money bail pretrial. *See, e.g.,*  
10 *Walker v. City of Calhoun*, 4:15-cv-170-HLM at \*48 (N.D. Ga. Jan. 28, 2016) (“Certainly,  
11 keeping individuals in jail solely because they cannot pay for their release, whether via fines,  
12 fees, or a cash bond, is impermissible.”); *Thompson v. Moss Point*, 1:15-cv-00182-LG-RHW  
13 (S.D. Miss. Nov. 6, 2015); *Cooper v. City of Dothan*, 1:15-cv-425-WKW (M.D. Ala. June 18,  
14 2015) (issuing Temporary Restraining Order and holding that the City of Dothan’s fixed money  
15 bail schedule violates the Fourteenth Amendment); *Jones v. City of Clanton*, 2:15-cv-34-MHT  
16 (M.D. Ala. Sept. 14, 2015) (declaring unconstitutional the use of wealth-based detention  
17 procedures as applied to indigent arrestees).

18         Just like their federal counterparts, numerous state courts have stricken down wealth-  
19 based detention schemes similar to the one employed by Defendants. The Mississippi Supreme  
20 Court long ago condemned the jailing of the poor based on inability to pay secured monetary  
21 bail. *See, e.g., Lee v. Lawson*, 375 So. 2d 1019, 1023 (Miss. 1979) (“A consideration of the  
22 equal protection and due process rights of indigent pretrial detainees leads us to the inescapable  
23 conclusion that a bail system based on monetary bail alone would be unconstitutional.”); *see*

1 also, e.g., *Robertson v. Goldman*, 369 S.E.2d 888, 891 (W. Va. 1988) (“[W]e have previously  
2 observed in a case involving a “peace bond,” which we said was analogous to a bail bond, that if  
3 the appellant was placed in jail because he was an indigent and could not furnish [bond] while a  
4 person who is not an indigent can avoid being placed in jail by merely furnishing the bond  
5 required, he has been denied equal protection of the law.”) (internal quotation marks omitted). In  
6 *State v. Blake*, 642 So. 2d 959, 968 (Ala. 1994), the Alabama Supreme Court struck down a state  
7 statute that allowed for indigent arrestees to be held for 72 hours solely because they could not  
8 afford monetary payments to secure their release prior to their first appearance. *Id.* at 968; *see*  
9 also *id.* at 966 (“Putting liberty on a cash basis was never intended by the founding fathers as the  
10 basis for release pending trial.”) (quoting decision of lower court).

11 In line with the numerous federal and state courts that have stricken down wealth-based  
12 pretrial detention schemes, the United States Department of Justice has explained that the  
13 fundamental ban on wealth-based detention applies in full force to the use of money bail. *See*  
14 ECF Doc. 2-2, United States Department of Justice, Statement of Interest, *Varden et al. v. City of*  
15 *Clanton*, 15-cv-34 (M.D. Ala. 2015) (arguing on behalf of the United States government that the  
16 use of secured monetary bail schedules to keep indigent arrestees in jail “not only violates the  
17 Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause, but also constitutes bad public policy.”).

18 The American Bar Association’s seminal Standards for Criminal Justice condemn  
19 Defendants’ wealth-based detention policies as having no place in American law. *American Bar*  
20 *Association Standards for Criminal Justice – Pretrial Release* (3d ed. 2007) (“ABA Standards”),  
21 available at [http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/criminal\\_justice\\_](http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/criminal_justice_standards/pretrial_release.authcheckdam.pdf)  
22 [standards/pretrial\\_release.authcheckdam.pdf](http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/criminal_justice_standards/pretrial_release.authcheckdam.pdf). The ABA Standards call for the presumption of  
23 release on recognizance, followed by release pursuant to the least restrictive non-financial

1 conditions; most importantly, they condemn the use of money bail that results in detention (as in  
2 Defendants' wealth-based detention scheme). ABA Standards § 10-1.4(a).

3 Defendant's references to cases that have upheld the use of money bail in theory are  
4 irrelevant, because Plaintiff's challenge is to a non-individualized, blanket application of wealth-  
5 based detention that operates to jail people who are poor. Plaintiff is not arguing that money bail  
6 can never be used (for example, as part of an order of release and as genuine collateral for  
7 someone who can afford it and for whom money bail will provide an incentive to return). In  
8 other words, none of Plaintiff's constitutional arguments would bar an individual judge from  
9 ordering release and adding, as a condition of release, a requirement that the defendant post a  
10 refundable money bail deposit as genuine collateral. Money bail should only be used where it is  
11 the most effective means of securing appearance, not as a detention order for people who are  
12 poor. Plaintiff is not seeking the total eradication of all money bail; the challenge in this case is  
13 against money bail as a *de facto* detention order based on wealth-status. Thus, despite the  
14 permissibility of specific money bail orders in appropriate individual cases, money bail cannot be  
15 used in the indiscriminate, broad-based, and arbitrary manner that amounts to wealth-based  
16 detention.

### 17 **III. Conclusion**

18 While conceding that Sacramento's implementation of money bail may be  
19 unconstitutional, the Attorney General only defends the facial constitutionality of California's  
20 bail laws. But Defendant's efforts must fail, because the bail laws outline an across-the-board  
21 wealth-based detention system, which cannot pass the strict scrutiny required for infringements  
22 on pretrial liberty. Although Sacramento County also violates Plaintiff's fundamental rights by  
23 executing its money bail system, the state laws must be stricken on their face because they are

1 not narrowly tailored, but are indiscriminate applications of a wealth-based scheme.

2 Respectfully submitted,

3  
4 /s/ Phil Telfeyan

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13 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

14 I certify that on December 29, 2016, I electronically filed the foregoing document with  
15 the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notice of such filing to the  
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23 /s/ Phil Telfeyan  
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