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1		THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES
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4	UNITED STAT	ES DISTRICT COURT
5	WESTERN DISTR	RICT OF WASHINGTON SEATTLE
6	ABDIQAFAR WAGAFE, et al., on behalf	No. 2:17-cv-00094-RAJ
7 8	of themselves and others similarly situated, Plaintiffs,	PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO COMPEL STATISTICAL DATA UNDER FED R.
9	V.	CIV. P. 37(a)(3)
10	DONALD TRUMP, President of the United States, et al.,	NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR: October 30, 2020
11	Defendants.	Redacted Version
12		
13	Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Pro	cedure 37(a)(3), Plaintiffs respectfully request that
14	the Court order Defendants to produce certain	n statistical data that they improperly have withheld
15	from Plaintiffs. At the Rule 30(b)(6) depositi	on of Defendant USCIS on August 31, 2020,
16	Plaintiffs learned for the first time that the sta	atistical data that Defendants intend to rely on in this
17	case uses an overbroad and inaccurate definit	tion of a "CARRP case"
18	. USCIS	confirmed at the deposition that the definition of a
19 20	"CARRP case" used in the data includes case	es
20		
22		. Although Defendants and their
23	witnesses have represented that applicants in	
24		s "CARRP cases" in the data. And, even though
25	applicants in those categories likely comprise	
26	USCIS intends to rely on this very inaccurate	e data—and has already relied on it—to argue both

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that the delays and denial rates of CARRP cases are not as significant when compared to non-CARRP cases.

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3 At the recent deposition, USCIS also acknowledged that its Fraud Detection and National 4 Security Data System ("FDNS-DS") database contains certain 5 fields that would allow the Court and the parties to have a correct understanding of what cases 6 are in fact "CARRP cases" and the impact of CARRP on their adjudication. Those fields— 7 including would allow the 8 parties to remove applicants in these categories when calculating processing times and denial 9 rates for CARRP cases. This is critical, for example, because the 10 category of cases reflect cases no longer subject to CARRP. So, without an ability to 11 disaggregate these cases from the data, the data cannot accurately show how CARRP impacts 12 approval and denial rates at the point of adjudication. The requested fields, therefore, go to the 13 heart of Plaintiffs' case. Without this crucial information, Plaintiffs and the Court will not have 14 an accurate assessment of the extent of the significant harm caused by CARRP: USCIS's lengthy 15 delays in adjudicating naturalization and adjustment of status applications subjected to CARRP 16 and the higher rate of denials of those applications. 17 Pursuant to Rule 26(e), Defendants "must supplement or correct [their] disclosure or 18 [discovery] response" if "in some material respect the disclosure or response is incomplete or 19 incorrect" or "as ordered by the court." The Court should, therefore, order Defendants to produce 20 fields to Plaintiffs both as a supplement to their the requested 21 disclosures under Rule 26(a) and as responsive to Plaintiffs' many discovery requests seeking 22 CARRP-related statistical data.¹ 23 ¹ At the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition, USCIS also disclosed for the first time that Defendants unilaterally changed the 24

At the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition, USCIS also disclosed for the first time that Defendants unilaterally changed the without informing Plaintiffs. Ahmed Decl. ¶ 5. USCIS admitted that it used a _______ in the statistical data produced to Plaintiffs in response to Interrogatory No. 3 in October 2018. *Id.* USCIS further admitted that _______ *Id.* Plaintiffs requested that Defendants produce an updated version of the Interrogatory No. 3 data, but Defendants refused. *Id.* Pursuant to Rule 26(e), Defendants are also required to "correct" and re-produce the Interrogatory No. 3 data. On October 9, 2020,

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BACKGROUND

A. In Discovery, Plaintiffs Requested and Defendants Produced Statistical Data Regarding the Processing Times and Denial Rates of CARRP Cases.

On August 1, 2017, Plaintiffs served their First Requests for Production to Defendants, which included RFP Nos. 27, 28 and 33. Ahmed Decl. Ex. A. RFP. No 27 requests: "All Documents referring or relating to the number of Immigration Benefit Applications subject to CARRP" including "data[] or statistics related to CARRP." *Id.* at 16. RFP No. 28 requests: "All Documents referring to, relating to, or reflecting ... demographics of Immigration Benefit Application Benefit Applicants who have been ... subjected to CARRP, including application processing times." *Id.* RFP No. 33 requests: "All Documents that any Defendant contends support any affirmative defense set forth in response to the Second Amended Complaint." *Id.* at 18. On September 5, 2017, Defendants responded that they would produce responsive documents to these RFPs. Ahmed Decl. Ex. B at 46-48.

On August 24, 2018, Plaintiffs served their Fifth Requests for Production and Third Interrogatories to Defendants, which included Interrogatory No. 3. Ahmed Decl. Ex. C. Interrogatory No. 3 requests certain CARRP-related information, including "[t]he total number of applications referred into CARRP" and the median and average processing times and denial rates at various stages in the CARRP process. *Id.* at 10-11. In RFP Nos. 50 and 51, Plaintiffs also requested documents "sufficient to demonstrate the basis for and confirm the accuracy of [Defendants'] response to Interrogatory No. 3" and "used by [Defendants] as the source of any of the information set forth in [their] response to Interrogatory No. 3." *Id.* at 12. On October 16, 2018, Defendants produced to Plaintiffs an Excel spreadsheet with some of the statistical data requested by Plaintiffs in Interrogatory No. 3. Ahmed Decl. Ex. D.

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Defendants produced the underlying dataset used to respond to Interrogatory No. 3. *Id.* ¶ 6. Because the underlying dataset may address Plaintiffs' concerns regarding the Interrogatory No. 3 data, at this time Plaintiffs do not move to compel Defendants to correct and re-produce that data but reserve the right to in the future. *Id.*

On July 26, 2019, Defendants served Plaintiffs their First Set of Supplemental Initial Disclosures. As part of those disclosures, Defendants included "USCIS data and/or data summaries/compilations … regarding the receipt of immigration benefit applications for naturalization or adjustment of status and whether such applications were processed under CARRP or not, adjudication information for applications adjudicated following referral to CARRP and for cases adjudicated without referral to CARRP, and processing times for adjudication of applications handled under the CARRP process and applications not handled under the CARRP process." Ahmed Decl. Ex. E at 11-12. On that same date, Defendants produced "an Excel spreadsheet with multiple tabs summarizing/compiling this data." *Id.* at 12 (hereinafter the "USCIS Summary Data").

Defendants subsequently provided updated versions of the USCIS Summary Data on November 29, 2019 and February 14, 2020. Ahmed Decl. Ex. F (Defendants' Third Set of Supplemental Initial Disclosures); Ex. G (E-mail from Leon Taranto dated 2/14/2020). On November 22, 2019, Defendants acknowledged that the USCIS Summary Data was also responsive to RFP Nos. 27 and 28. Ahmed Decl. Ex. H at 17-21 (noting that the requested information in RFP Nos. 27 and 28 is "the same or similar to information contained in ... the CARRP-related statistics provided to Plaintiffs in Defendants' Supplemental Initial Disclosures"). The parties' statistical experts Mr. Sean Kruskol and Dr. Bernard Siskin relied on the February 14, 2020 version of the USCIS Summary Data when serving their initial expert reports on February 28, 2020.

B. Defendants Notified Plaintiffs of an Error in the Statistical Data, Produced A New Version of the Data, and Permitted Plaintiffs to Take a Rule 30(b)(6) Deposition.

On May 15, 2020, Defendants notified Plaintiffs that they had identified an error in the USCIS Summary Data. Ahmed Decl. Ex. I (E-mail from Leon Taranto dated 5/15/20). Because of that error, on June 12, 2020 Defendants produced another version of the USCIS Summary Data and an anonymized version of the underlying dataset used to create the USCIS Summary

Data (hereinafter the "USCIS Detailed Data"). Ahmed Decl. Ex. J (E-mail from Leon Taranto
dated 6/12/20).

Defendants also agreed that it was appropriate that Plaintiffs be permitted to explore questions about the data through a Rule 30(b)(6) deposition. The parties agreed that the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition would cover the following topic: "How USCIS defines and measures categories of information in the new tables and underlying dataset" including "what constitutes a CARRP case, as reflected in the data?" Ahmed Decl. Ex. K at 14.

C. At the Rule 30(b)(6) Deposition, USCIS Disclosed That Defendants Relied on an Overbroad and Inaccurate Definition of a CARRP Case in the Statistical Data.

The Rule 30(b)(6) deposition on the statistical data occurred on August 31, 2020. At the deposition, USCIS disclosed that it does not ______. Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 101-102, 108. Instead, USCIS disclosed for the first time that the USCIS Summary Data relied on ______. *Id.* at 98-100. This ______ in consultation

with USCIS counsel. Id. at 101. According to the

, that application would be identified as CARRP. *Id.* at 103:8-12.

According to the FDNS-DS User Guide, an

Ahmed Decl. Ex. M at 85

(emphasis added). USCIS acknowledged

Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 126. The user guide also states that

Ahmed Decl. Ex.

M at 450; see also id. at 451

At the deposition,

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1	USCIS confirmed that
2	Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 129.
3	The FDNS-DS database contains
4	Ahmed Decl. Ex. M at 453. These
5	Id. at
6	454. USCIS confirmed that, according to
7	Ahmed
8	Decl. Ex. L at 150. Although Defendants have represented that an "application is handled
9	pursuant to CARRP" only "if an application presents an articulable link to a national security
10	concern," Dkt. 74 at 20, this means Defendants'
11	, Ahmed
12	Decl. Ex. M at 454. USCIS also confirmed that, according to
13	
14	Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 150. This means Defendants'
15	
16	Ahmed Decl. Ex. M at 454. Defendants' witnesses have testified that
17	when an applicant's second
18	<i>e.g.</i> , Ahmed Decl. Ex. N at 102 (Cook Dep.)
19	; <i>id.</i> at 181
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21	The FDNS-DS database also contains three
22	<i>Id.</i> An applicant is identified as
23	
24	<i>Id.</i> at 490-91. USCIS confirmed that, according to its
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26	Abmod Dool Ex. L at 155 Defendents' witnesses have testified that when an
	Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 155. Defendants' witnesses have testified that when an

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1 applicant's , their case is not a CARRP case. See, e.g., Ahmed Decl. Ex. 2 O at 87 (Quinn Dep.) (explaining that 3 4); Ahmed Decl. Ex. P at 225 (30(b)(6) Dep.) 5 6 Defendants Have Refused to Supplement or Correct the Statistical Data in 7 D. Accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26. 8 Because the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition confirmed that Defendants had previously produced 9 inaccurate and misleading statistical data, Plaintiffs requested that Defendants produce additional 10 data to ensure the parties and the Court have a more accurate understanding of what cases should 11 be labeled as "CARRP cases" according to the data. Specifically, Plaintiffs requested that 12 Defendants produce an updated version of the USCIS Detailed Data to include fields for the 13 . Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 213-14. USCIS has confirmed that 14 it could update this data as requested. Id. at 151, 156. On September 21, 2020, Plaintiffs' expert 15 Mr. Kruskol issues his Second Supplemental Expert Report. Mr. Kruskol stated that if he 16 , [he] would 17 be able to calculate mean and median processing times and approval and denial rates for 18 applications" broken down into those various categories. Ahmed Decl. Ex. Q at 9. To date, 19 however, Defendants have refused to produce the requested data. 20 **CERTIFICATION UNDER LCR 37(A)(1)** 21 Pursuant to LCR 37(a)(1), Plaintiffs have in good faith conferred with Defendants in an 22 effort to resolve this dispute without court action. Plaintiffs have discussed this dispute with 23 Defendants on many occasions in September and October 2020. Ahmed Decl. Ex. R. On October 24 5, 2020, the parties held a telephonic meet and confer regarding this dispute, and Defendants 25 have continued to refuse to produce the requested data. Id. \P 4. 26

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ARGUMENT

A. Legal Standard

A party "must supplement or correct its disclosure or [discovery] response" if "in some material respect the disclosure or response is incomplete or incorrect," "if the additional or corrective information has not otherwise been made known to the other parties during the discovery process" or "as ordered by the court." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e)(1)(A)-(B). The obligation to "supplement disclosures and discovery responses applies whenever a party learns that its prior disclosures or responses are in some material respect incomplete or incorrect." *Johnson v. BAE Sys., Inc.*, 307 F.R.D. 220, 224 (D.D.C. 2013); *see also R & R Sails, Inc. v. Ins. Co. of Pennsylvania*, 673 F.3d 1240, 1247 (9th Cir. 2012) (holding that Rule 26(e) required party to "supplement its initial disclosures … after it became evident that the initial disclosures were incomplete"); 6 Moore's Federal Practice - Civil § 26.131 (2020) ("The duty to supplement and correct disclosures and responses is a continuing duty.").

Pursuant to Rule 37(a)(3)(A), a "party may move to compel disclosure" "[i]f a party fails to make a disclosure required by Rule 26(a)." Pursuant to Rule 37(a)(3)(B), a "party seeking discovery may move for an order compelling ... production" if "a party fails to answer an interrogatory submitted under Rule 33" or "to produce documents ... as requested under Rule 34." "[A]n evasive or incomplete disclosure, answer, or response must be treated as a failure to disclose, answer, or respond." Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(4). Moreover, "[i]f a party fails to provide information" as required by Rule 26(e), "the party is not allowed to use that information ... to supply evidence on a motion, at a hearing, or at a trial, unless the failure was substantially justified or is harmless." Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(c)(1); *see R & R Sails*, 673 F.3d at 1247 ("[I]n the ordinary case, violations of Rule 26 may warrant evidence preclusion.").

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B.

The Court Should Compel Defendants to Produce the Fields for the USCIS Detailed Data.

Defendants should be compelled to produce the **sector** fields in the USCIS Detailed Data because, without those fields, the USCIS Summary Data relies on a definition of a CARRP case that "is incomplete or incorrect" and information from those fields "has not otherwise been made known to [Plaintiffs] during the discovery process." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e)(1)(A). Defendants produced the data as a disclosure under Rule 26(a), and, therefore, "must supplement or correct [that] disclosure" under Rule 26(e). *See, e.g., El Paso Area Teachers Fed. Credit Union v. Cumis Ins. Soc 'y, Inc.*, No. EP-16-cv-0020, 2017 WL 5171857, at *3 (W.D. Tex. Mar. 8, 2017) (requiring party to supplement disclosures when it failed to provide all relevant information "regarding its claims or defenses … and no discovery request was required to obtain them"); Krout v. New Albertson's, Inc., No. 2:07-cv-01685, 2009 WL 10693220, at *2 (D. Nev. Mar. 20, 2009) (granting motion to compel where party had provided incomplete data as part of their Rule 26(a) disclosures).

Even if that were not the case, the data and the requested **second second secon**

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1	discovery requests to include the requested data. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e); see Jones v. Travelers
2	Cas. Ins. Co. of Am., 304 F.R.D. 677, 681 (N.D. Cal. 2015) ("Defendant had an obligation to
3	timely supplement Defendant's response to Plaintiffs' requests for production with [the
4	requested spreadsheets], or the data underlying those spreadsheets"); 6 Moore's Federal Practice
5	- Civil § 26.131 ("[T]he duty to supplement appl[ies] to responsive documents that are created
6	after a party has served a response to a discovery request.").
7	Because , Defendants created
8	their own overbroad and incorrect definition of CARRP cases
9	Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 101-102, 108. That definition improperly includes two categories of
10	applicants that Defendants have previously represented are not subjected to CARRP. First, the
11	USCIS Summary Data improperly includes cases as CARRP cases even where
12	. Ahmed Decl. Ex. M at 454. This is in
13	direct conflict with Defendants' position elsewhere in this case where they admit that
14	"[a]ccording to the CARRP definition, a national security concern arises when an individual or
15	organization has been determined to have an articulable link" to a national security concern, and
16	an "application is handled pursuant to CARRP" only "if an application presents an articulable
17	link to a national security concern." Dkt. 74 at 20.
18	Second, the USCIS Summary Data improperly includes cases as CARRP cases even
19	when the applicant
20	. Ahmed Decl. Ex. M at 490-91.
21	This is in direct conflict with Defendants' position elsewhere in this case that such applications
22	are . See,
23	e.g., Ahmed Decl. Ex. N at 181 (Cook Dep.) (admitting that such cases
24); Ahmed Decl. Ex. O at 87 (Quinn Dep.)
25	(such applications are
26).
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By improperly including these two categories of applications as "CARRP cases," Defendants have improperly skewed the USCIS Summary Data, including the processing times and approval rates of applications purportedly subjected to CARRP. And because USCIS either or , applicants who fall into these categories likely have higher approval rates and shorter processing times than applicants whose alleged . Therefore, it appears that Defendants purposefully included these applicants as CARRP cases in the USCIS Summary Data to mislead Plaintiffs and the Court that the processing times for actual CARRP cases are shorter, and 10 approval rates are higher, than they actually are. Indeed, Defendants have already misleadingly relied on this incorrect data in an attempt to convince the Court that the harm caused by CARRP 12 is not as serious as Plaintiffs contend. See Dkt. 383 at 5 (relying on incorrect USCIS Summary 13 Data to contend that "over 80% of adjustment of status and naturalization applications 14 adjudicated after referral to CARRP are approved rather than denied"). 15 The only way for the parties and the Court to have an accurate understanding of what 16 cases should be included in the data as CARRP cases is if Defendants produce the 17 fields requested by Plaintiffs. Because those fields separate the cases into 18 the parties' categories including 19 statistical experts can exclude those cases when calculating updated processing times and 20 approval rates. See Ahmed Decl. Ex. Q at 9 (Plaintiffs' expert Mr. Kruskol stating that if he

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1	The burden on Defendants to re-produce the USCIS Detailed Data with the
2	fields is minimal. At the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition, USCIS admitted that it
3	could update the data to include these fields and identified no burden in doing so. Ahmed Decl.
4	Ex. L at 151, 156. Defendants may also argue that Plaintiffs' request for this information is
5	untimely. That is incorrect. Before the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition on August 31, 2020, Plaintiffs
6	did not know how the data defined a CARRP case. As soon as Plaintiffs understood that the data
7	relied on an overbroad and incorrect definition
8	they requested the second second second second fields at the deposition itself and in subsequent
9	correspondence, but Defendants have refused to provide it.
10	The requested data goes to the heart of Plaintiffs' case. Without it, Plaintiffs (and the
11	Court) will not accurately understand the extent of the significant harm caused by CARRP: the
12	lengthier delays and higher rate of denials of applications subjected to CARRP. Moreover, the
13	extent of Defendants' error is significant. It is likely that see a set of cases that
14	Defendants have identified as "CARRP cases" in the USCIS Summary Data have been
15	misidentified. For example, in other data produced to Plaintiffs,
16	purportedly subjected to CARRP were determined to be the second
17	at 7; see also Ex. N at 104
18	the Court should order Defendants to produce the requested data. See Richardson v. Union Oil
19	Co. of California, 167 F.R.D. 1, 5 (D.D.C. 1996) (granting Rule 37 motion where Plaintiff
20	"would have been seriously (if not fatally) weakened by the incomplete and inaccurate data
21	submitted by Defendant"). If Defendants contend that they somehow cannot produce the
22	requested data, then the Court should prevent Defendants from using any of the USCIS
23	Summary Data "to supply evidence on a motion, at a hearing, or at a trial." Rule 37(c)(1).
24	CONCLUSION

Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant their motion to compel.

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DATED: October 15, 2020

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