ZAIA LAW LLC
Guilherme Castilho Zaia, Esq. (SBN 334469)
11810 Grand Park Ave
North Bethesda, MD 20852
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Non-Detained

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
IMMIGRATION COURT
450 Main Street, Room 628
Hartford, CT 06103

In the Matter of	)	
Joao Ricardo Sampaio Pinto	)	**File No. A. 241-136-264**
In Removal Proceedings	)	

Immigration Judge: **Straus, Michael W.** Next Hearing Date: **August 20, 2026 at 1:00 PM**

MOTION TO SUBSTITUTION COUNSEL

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MOTION TO SUBSTITUTION COUNSEL

Respondent Joao Ricardo Sampaio Pinto, by and through undersigned counsel, respectfully moves this Honorable Court to permit substitution of counsel pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 1003.17(a)(3) and the Immigration Court Practice Manual, Chapter 2.1(b)(3)(B). In support, Respondent states:

1. This matter is currently pending before the Hartford Immigration Court. Respondent's Individual Hearing is scheduled for August 20, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

2. Prior counsel of record is Otavio Haverroth Silva (CA Bar No. 343486; EOIR ID RR665872), whose appearance is for all proceedings other than custody and bond proceedings.

3. Prior counsel prepared and presented Respondent's Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, Form I-589, as well as written pleadings, and presented prima facie evidence of eligibility for such application on behalf of the Respondent.

4. Respondent has retained new counsel, Guilherme de Castilho Zaia, Esq., and respectfully requests that Mr. Zaia be substituted as counsel of record for all proceedings other than custody and bond proceedings. Mr. Zaia's executed Form EOIR-28 is filed concurrently with this Motion.

5. Respondent consents to the substitution of counsel requested herein. *See* Exhibit 1 (Respondent's Consent to Substitute Counsel).

WHEREFORE, Respondent respectfully requests that the Court grant this Motion and recognize Guilherme de Castilho Zaia, Esq. as counsel of record in this matter, and relieve prior counsel of record.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guilherme Castilho Zaia (SBN 334469)
Attorney at Law
11810 Grand Park Ave
North Bethesda, MD 20852
Counsel for Respondent

Exhibit list

Exhibits:	Pages:
Exhibit 1	
Respondent’s Consent o Substitution of Counsel	1-2
Proof of service document	3

Exhibit 1

RESPONDENT'S CONSENT TO SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL

I, Joao Ricardo Sampaio Pinto (A# A241-136-264), am the Respondent in removal proceedings pending before the Hartford Immigration Court.

I consent to the substitution of counsel in my proceedings. I request that Otavio H. Silva, Esq. be substituted by Guilherme Castilho Zaia, Esq. of ZAIA LLC as my attorney of record for all proceedings other than custody and bond proceedings.

/Signature/

_____

JOÃO RICARDO SAMPAIO PINTO

Date: 02/10/2026

I, André Vinicius Inacio Penna Mello, telephone number 415 425-2508, mailing address P.O. Box 90487, San Diego, CA 92169, certify that the professional translation of this document from Portuguese to English has been performed by myself, a qualified translator fluent in both languages, and that the following is an accurate and complete translation of the document.

_____ **Date: February 10, 2026**

André Vinicius Inacio Penna Mello

CONSENTIMENTO DO RESPONDENTE PARA SUBSTITUIÇÃO DE ADVOGADO

Eu, Joao Ricardo Sampaio Pinto (A# A241-136-264), sou o Respondente em processos de remoção pendentes perante o Tribunal de Imigração de Hartford.

Eu concordo com a substituição de advogado nos meus processos. Solicito que Otavio H. Silva, Esq. seja substituído por Guilherme Castilho Zaia, Esq., da ZAIA LLC, como meu advogado constituído para todos os atos/processos, exceto procedimentos de custódia e fiança.

JOÃO RICARDO SAMPAIO PINTO

Data: 10/02/2026

Proof of Service

On this day, I, Guilherme Castilho Zaia, served a copy of the following documents:

RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE COUNSEL

To the following:

Office Location:	**Mailing Address:**
Office of the Principal Legal Advisor Department of Homeland Security Ribicoff Federal Building 450 Main Street, Room 483 Hartford, CT 06103-3060	US Immigration and Customs Enforcement US Department of Homeland Security Office of the Principal Legal Advisor Ribicoff Federal Building 450 Main Street, Room 483 Hartford, CT 06103-3060

by:

☑ Through the EOIR Courts and Appeals System (ECAS), which will automatically send service notification to both parties that a new document has been filed.

Guilherme Castilho Zaia (SBN 334469)
Attorney at Law
11810 Grand Park Ave
North Bethesda, MD 20852
Counsel for Respondent