PennState Dickinson Law | Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic

Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo: A Conversation of Law, Policy, and Impact

Fact Sheet

- Roving patrols are interior immigration enforcement activity where immigration officials drive around and pull over motorists. Immigration officers must have reasonable suspicion that the individual committed an immigration violation or a federal crime. Roving patrol stops should be limited to the suspicion that resulted in the initial stop.[1]

- In 1975, the Supreme Court of the United States established that an individual's apparent race or ethnicity cannot be the sole basis for reasonable suspicion of a vehicle stop. The Court's decision resulted from officer's reliance on the individual's "apparent Mexican ancestry" as the basis to conducting a traffic stop.[2]

- The *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo* case was a result of, as described by the Central District of California, immigration stops that were based on only four factors: 1) apparent race or ethnicity; 2) speaking Spanish or English with an accent; 3) presence at a particular location; and 4) the type of work one does.[3]

- In 2024, the U.S. Hispanic population was approximately 68 million people, or around 20% of the population.[4] The Latino population is one of the fastest growing groups in the United States, almost doubling from 2000 to 2024.[5] The ultimate *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo* decision could impact around one in five people living in the United States.

- In the Central District of California alone, 9,096,334 individuals, or 47%, of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino, which means the roving patrols at issue in *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo* impact nearly half of the district's population.[6]

- The Supreme Court's decision, issued on September 8, 2025, was a result of the Court's "shadow" or emergency docket, which allows the Court to issue unsigned decisions with little to no explanation.[7] Shadow docket decisions are generally temporary, not final, ruling on the merits,[8] which means that a final decision in *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo* still remains to be seen.

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[1] Rory Little, *"Roving patrols," reasonable suspicion, and Perdomo*, SCOTUSBLOG, https://www.scotusblog.com/2025/09/roving-patrols-reasonable-suspicion-and-perdomo/ (last visited Oct. 27, 2025); *see also 100 Mile Border Zone*, ACLU, https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/border-zone (last updated Sep. 5, 2025).
[2] United States v. Brignoni-Ponce, 422 U.S. 873 (1975).
[3] Vasquez-Perdomo v. Noem, 148 F.4th 656, 671 (9th Cir. 2025).
[4] *See* Gabriel Piña & Gracie Martinez, *Key facts about U.S. Latinos*, PEW RSCH. CTR. (Oct. 22, 2025). https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/10/22/key-facts-about-us-latinos/.
[5] *Id.*
[6] *Id.* at 665.
[7] *Emergency Docket,* SCOTUSBLOG, https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/emergency/emergency-docket-2025/ (last visited Oct. 26, 2025).
[8] *Supreme Court Shadow Docket Tracker – Challenges to Trump Administration Actions*, BRENNAN CTR. JUST. (Oct. 21, 2025), https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/supreme-court-shadow-docket-tracker-challenges-trump-administration.