



JUNE 2026

FEDERAL AGENTS EXEMPT FROM CALIFORNIA'S OFFICER IDENTIFICATION LAW

United States v. California

No. 26-926 (9th Cir. Apr. 22, 2026)

On April 22, 2026, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals granted the United States an injunction blocking California from enforcing Section 10 of S.B. 805 - the "No Vigilantes Act" - against federal agencies and federal officers. The court held that the law likely violates the Supremacy Clause because it directly regulates the federal government in the performance of governmental functions.

What the Law Requires: Section 10, codified at California Penal Code § 13654, requires any non-uniformed law enforcement officer operating in California - including federal officers - to visibly display identification (*showing the officer's agency plus name and /or badge number*) when performing "enforcement duties." This includes arrests, detentions, and crowd-control deployments. A willful violation is punishable as a California misdemeanor.

The law contains exceptions for undercover operations, certain plainclothes assignments, personal protective equipment that prevents display, exigent circumstances, SWAT or tactical team operations, and protective details for dignitaries.

What the Court Decided: The Ninth Circuit held that California likely cannot apply this rule to federal officers. Under the Supremacy Clause, a state is not permitted to directly regulate the federal government's operations. When officers from the FBI, ICE, DEA, U.S. Marshals, or other federal agencies perform their duties, they follow federal rules - not state rules.

The court emphasized that there is no de minimis exception to intergovernmental immunity. Even a small or seemingly reasonable state rule that directly controls federal officers is not allowed. The court stated: "A state or local law that directly regulates the conduct of the federal government or discriminates against it is invalid, even if it is no more restrictive than federal law."

What This Means for Officers: California State, County, and City Officers: Nothing changes for you. Section 10 still applies. You must continue to follow your department's ID policy when working in plain clothes and making arrests, detaining people, or conducting crowd control. A willful violation remains a misdemeanor.

Joint Task Force Operations: The state ID rule does not apply to your federal partners while this injunction is in place. Federal officers will follow their own federal ID policies. You should still follow your own department's policy. If you have questions about ID requirements during a joint operation, discuss them with your task force supervisor before the operation.



Federal Officers Working in California: You cannot be arrested or charged under Section 10 while this injunction is in place. Continue to follow your agency's federal identification policies.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- This is an injunction pending appeal - not a final ruling. *The case continues.*
- Only Section 10 (*the ID mandate*) is enjoined as to federal officers.
- S.B. 627's face-covering prohibition (*the "No Secret Police Act"*) was separately enjoined for federal officers by the district court.
- State and local officers must continue to comply with both laws.

KEY TAKEAWAY: *California can regulate its own officers - but it cannot tell federal officers how to do their job. If you are a state or local officer, continue following your department's identification policy. If you work with federal agents on a task force, understand that they operate under federal identification rules, not California's, and if you have questions about how this law applies to a specific situation, ask your supervisor or legal counsel before the operation - not after.*

Stay Safe!