

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Josh Olivas v. State of Texas, et al.

No. 2:25-cv-3263 CKD P, United States District Court for the Eastern District of California (November 19, 2025)

SUMMARY

The court construed a pretrial detainee’s pleading challenging his confinement and pretrial proceedings as an application for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Because the petitioner was confined in Taylor County, Texas, and was neither convicted nor confined in California, the court transferred the matter to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	November 19, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-3263 CKD P
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A pretrial detainee filed a pleading challenging his confinement and pretrial proceedings. The court construed the pleading as an application for a writ of habeas corpus and transferred the matter to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Josh Olivas v. State of Texas, et al.

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- venue
- subject matter jurisdiction
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- federal habeas corpus
- civil procedure
- jurisdiction and venue

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the pleading should be construed as an application for a writ of habeas corpus.

2. Whether the Eastern District of California was an appropriate federal forum for a state prisoner's habeas application when the petitioner was neither convicted in nor confined in California.
3. Whether the matter should be transferred to the federal district encompassing Taylor County, Texas.

HOLDINGS

1. A pleading by a state pretrial detainee that challenges the legality of custody and seeks release is properly construed as an application for a writ of habeas corpus.
2. The Eastern District of California was not an appropriate forum because petitioner was neither convicted in nor confined in California; the matter was properly transferred to the Northern District of Texas, the district encompassing his place of confinement.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“When a state prisoner challenges the legality of his custody and the relief he seeks is the determination of his entitlement to an earlier or immediate release, his sole federal remedy is a writ of habeas corpus.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Josh Olivas was a pretrial detainee confined in Taylor County, Texas. He appeared to challenge the legality of his confinement and pretrial proceedings, although the nature of his pleading was not entirely clear. He had not been convicted, and he was neither convicted in nor confined in California.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner, confined in Taylor County, Texas, filed the matter in the Eastern District of California. The court determined that petitioner was neither convicted in nor confined in California and transferred the action to the Northern District of Texas.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The matter was transferred to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

CASES CITED

- Preiser v. Rodriguez, 411 U.S. 475, 500 (1973)