

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Carlos Alberto Izquierdo-Matos v. Kristi Noem

Izquierdo-Matos v. Noem · No. 25-cv-2979-BJC-BLM · Decided November 6, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California grants Carlos Alberto Izquierdo-Matos’s motion for appointment of counsel in a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas proceeding. The court appoints the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. under 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2), finding that appointment is warranted based on the circumstances presented.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Benjamin J. Cheeks
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
DECIDED	November 6, 2025
DOCKET	25-cv-2979-BJC-BLM
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner, a federal habeas petitioner proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, moved for appointment of counsel under 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B), appointment of counsel for an indigent § 2241 habeas petitioner is discretionary when the interests of justice require it. The court considers the petitioner's likelihood of success on the merits and the petitioner's ability to present the claims effectively without counsel in light of the complexity of the legal issues.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

PARTIES

Carlos Alberto Izquierdo-Matos v. Kristi Noem, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Pamela Jo Bondi, Attorney General, Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Jesus Rocha, Acting Field Office Director, San Diego Field Office, Christopher LaRose, Warden at Otay Mesa Detention Center

TOPICS

immigration detention

federal habeas corpus

immigration

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration

federal habeas corpus

appointment of counsel

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the interests of justice required appointment of counsel for an indigent habeas petitioner proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 2241.
2. Whether the petitioner's likelihood of success on the merits and ability to present his claims pro se justified appointment of counsel under 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B).

HOLDINGS

1. A district court may appoint counsel for an indigent habeas petitioner pursuing relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 when the interests of justice require it, considering the petitioner's likelihood of success on the merits and ability to present the claims effectively without counsel given the complexity of the legal issues.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Under this statute, a district court may appoint counsel for an indigent habeas petitioner pursuing relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 if the court determines that the interests of justice require it.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Carlos Izquierdo-Matos sought habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and stated that he lacked the financial means to retain private counsel. Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. had participated in drafting the motion and supporting declaration, and the court found a sufficient likelihood of success on the merits and that appointment of counsel was warranted.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The district court considered Petitioner Carlos Izquierdo-Matos's motion for appointment of the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. The court granted the motion and appointed Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. to represent Petitioner.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Rand v. Rowland, 113 F.3d 1520 (9th Cir. 1997)

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