

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

In re Complaint and Petition of Efrain Camacho, as owner of a motor  
vessel, a 2024 Bayliner VR5, for Exoneration from or Limitation of  
Liability

Camacho · No. 2:25-cv-03604-WBS-CKD · Decided December 22, 2025

SUMMARY

This is an order of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in an admiralty limitation-of-liability proceeding brought by Efrain Camacho concerning a 2024 Bayliner VR5. The order approves the stipulation for vessel value and security, directs potential claimants to file and serve claims by March 2, 2026, orders publication of notice, and restrains prosecution of related claims outside the proceeding. It is dated December 19, 2025, and was signed by U.S. District Judge William B. Shubb.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Eastern District of California                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | William B. Shubb                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| DECIDED               | December 22, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| DOCKET                | 2:25-cv-03604-WBS-CKD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Petitioner's exoneration-from-or-limitation-of-liability proceeding under the Limitation of Liability Act was before the district court on a stipulation for vessel value and security. The court approved the stipulation, issued a monition, directed claimants to file claims and answers, and restrained prosecution of related claims outside the limitation proceeding. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | unknown; district court interlocutory order                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

TOPICS

- limitation of liability
- admiralty
- injunctions
- default
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should approve the petitioner's stipulation for the value of the vessel and the security provided in the form of a letter of undertaking.
2. Whether the court should issue a monition directing all potential claimants to file claims and answers by a specified deadline.
3. Whether the court should restrain prosecution of related claims and proceedings outside the limitation action.

## HOLDINGS

1. The court approved the stipulation for the value of the vessel and the security provided through the letter of undertaking.
2. The court directed issuance of a monition requiring persons with claims arising from the incident to file claims and, if contesting the petitioner's right to exoneration or limitation, an answer in accordance with Supplemental Admiralty Rule F by March 2, 2026.
3. The court stayed and restrained the beginning or continued prosecution of actions or proceedings concerning claims arising from or connected with the incident, except in the limitation proceeding.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“the beginning or continued prosecution of any and all suit actions, or legal proceedings of any nature or description whatsoever, except in the present proceeding, in respect of any claim arising out of, consequent upon, or in connection with the aforesaid incident involving the Vessel, described in the Complaint for Exoneration from or Limitation of Liability, are hereby stayed and restrained until the hearing and termination of this proceeding.” (at 2)*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Efrain Camacho was the owner of a 2024 Bayliner VR5 at the time of and after a May 10, 2025 incident on the navigable waters of the Sacramento River in California. He filed a limitation proceeding seeking exoneration from, or alternatively limitation of, liability for claims arising from the incident. The court considered a stipulation valuing the vessel and security in the form of a letter of undertaking.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Efrain Camacho filed a complaint on December 14, 2025, seeking exoneration from or limitation of liability for claims arising from a May 10, 2025 incident involving the vessel on the Sacramento River. The court considered the complaint and the filed stipulation for value and security, approved the letter of undertaking, established a March 2, 2026 deadline for claims and answers, ordered publication of notice, and stayed related proceedings.

## DISPOSITION

other

#### CASES CITED

- Complaint of Dammers, 836 F.2d 750, 753 n.2 (2d Cir. 1988)

#### OPINION

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Camacho 8 9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 10 EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA 11 IN ADMIRALTY 12 I N RE: COMPLAINT AND PETITION 13 OF EFRAIN  
CAMACHO, as owner of a Case No. 2:25-cv-03604-WBS-CKD motor vessel, a 2024 Bayliner  
VR5, 14 FOR EXONERATION FROM OR Hon. William B. Shubb LIMITATION OF  
LIABILITY ORDER APPROVING 15 STIPULATION FOR VALUE AND LETTER OF  
UNDERTAKING, 16 Petitioner and Plaintiff-in-Limitation.

DIRECTING CLAIMANTS TO FILE AND MAKE PROOF OF CLAIMS, 17 DIRECTING THE  
ISSUANCE OF MONITION, AND RESTRAINING 18 PROSECUTION OF CLAIMS 19 20  
WHEREAS, EFRAIN CAMACHO (“Petitioner”), as owner of the vessel 21 (hereinafter “the  
Vessel”), has filed a Complaint on December 14, 2025, pursuant to 22 46 U.S.C. §§ 30501, et seq.,  
and Supplemental Admiralty Rule F, claiming the right 23 to exoneration from, or alternatively,  
limitation of liability for, all claims arising out 24 of a claimed incident on the navigable waters of  
the Sacramento River, California, 25 and Petitioner was the owner of the Vessel at the time of and  
after the May 10, 2025 26 incident, and on considering the Complaint and Stipulation for Value of  
the vessel, 27 which are on file, stating the value of the Vessel to be estimated as FORTY-NINE 1  
and provided security for ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) as required by 2 Admiralty  
L. R. 520(b); 3 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Court approves the stipulation for value 4 and  
the security in the form of the letter of undertaking filed in this action (See 5 Complaint of  
Dammers, et al., 836 F.2d 750, 753, n.2 (2d Cir.

1988)); and it is 6 further 7 ORDERED that a Monition issue against all persons having such  
claims for 8 any and all losses, personal injuries, destruction of property, as alleged in 9  
Petitioner’s Complaint for Exoneration from or Limitation of Liability must file 10 them as  
provided by Rule F of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and 11 Maritime Claims with  
the Clerk of this Court, Mr. Keith Holland, United States 12 District Court, Eastern District of  
California, Robert T. Matsui United States 13 Courthouse, 501 I Street, 4th floor, Room 4-200,  
Sacramento, California 95814 and 14 mail copies to Petitioner’s attorneys, B. Otis Felder, Esq.,

WILSON, ELSEER, 15 MOSKOWITZ, EDELMAN & DICKER LLP, 655 Montgomery Street, Suite 900, 16 San Francisco, CA 94111, on or before the 2nd day of March 2026, subject to the 17 rights or any person claiming damages who shall have presented a claim to answer 18 the Complaint and to controvert, or be defaulted and forever barred from such a 19 claim, and that any claimant desiring to contest Petitioner's right to exoneration 20 from or limitation of liability must file an Answer to Petitioner's original complaint 21 and/or a claim as required by Rule F(4) – (5) of the Supplemental Rules, and serve 22 or mail a copy to Petitioner's attorney; and it is further 23 ORDERED, that public notice of the Monition be given by publication in a 24 newspaper published in the Eastern District of California, such publication in said 25 papers to be for at least four successive weeks before the return date of this Order 26 demanding the presentation of all claims against Petitioner as well as that Petitioner 27 give notice as to counsel for any known claimants; and it is further 1 ORDERED, that the beginning or continued prosecution of any and all suit 2 || actions, or legal proceedings of any nature or description whatsoever, except in tl 3 || present proceeding, in respect of any claim arising out of, consequent upon, or | 4 ||connection with the aforesaid incident involving the Vessel, described in tt 5 ||Complaint for Exoneration from or Limitation of Liability, are hereby stayed ar 6 || restrained until the hearing and termination of this proceeding.

7 SO ORDERED. Dated: December 19, 2025 9. - oh lew, (hth. te— 10 ii Vi ha 11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 1 Respectfully submitted, 2 WILSON ELSEER MOSKOWITZ 3 EDELMAN & DICKER LLP 4 By: “V2. AA 5 B. OTIS FELDER, ESQ. CSB Certified Admiralty 6 & Maritime Law Specialist 7 Limitarion Efrain Camacho 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28