

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

McKinney v. Walker

McKinney · No. 2:25-cv-2842 CKD P · Decided October 7, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California orders the transfer of a state prisoner’s 28 U.S.C. § 2254 habeas corpus petition to the Central District of California. The court concludes that the Central District is the more appropriate forum because the petitioner was convicted in Los Angeles County and relevant witnesses and evidence are more readily available there.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Carolyn K. Delaney
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	October 7, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-2842 CKD P
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, filed an application for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The court ordered the action transferred to the United States District Court for the Central District of California.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court transfer order
PARTIES	Alonzo McKinney v. J. Walker

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- venue
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- federal habeas corpus
- venue

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Eastern District of California should transfer the § 2254 habeas action to the Central District of California because the conviction occurred in Los Angeles County and the relevant witnesses and evidence were more readily available there.

HOLDINGS

1. A § 2254 habeas action may proceed in either the federal district where the petitioner was convicted or the district where the petitioner is incarcerated, and transfer to the district connected to the conviction is appropriate when the relevant witnesses and evidence are more readily available there.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Accordingly, in the furtherance of justice, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this matter is transferred to the United States District Court for the Central District of California.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner is a state prisoner incarcerated at R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego County. He is serving a sentence arising from a conviction in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. The court determined that witnesses and evidence necessary to resolve the habeas application were more readily available in Los Angeles County.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

McKinney filed a federal habeas petition in the Eastern District of California challenging a conviction from the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Because the witnesses and evidence relevant to the petition were more readily available in Los Angeles County, the court transferred the matter to the Central District of California in the furtherance of justice.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The matter was transferred to the United States District Court for the Central District of California for further proceedings.

CASES CITED

- *Braden v. 30th Judicial Circuit Court*, 410 U.S. 484 (1973)