

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Rajat Rajat v. Tonya Andrews

Rajat · No. 1:26-cv-0193 DAD CKD P · Decided January 15, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California preliminarily reviewed a pro se immigration detainee’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The court directed the Clerk to provide an in forma pauperis form and allowed the petitioner 21 days to submit an affidavit supporting an optional request to proceed in forma pauperis and potential appointment of counsel.

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	January 15, 2026
DOCKET	1:26-cv-0193 DAD CKD P
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, and the court conducted a preliminary review before directing the Clerk to provide an in forma pauperis form.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Preliminary review under Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Habeas Corpus Cases Under Section 2254, as applied to a § 2241 petition pursuant to Rule 1(b).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district court order
PARTIES	Rajat Rajat v. Tonya Andrews

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- immigration detention
- immigration
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- immigration
- habeas corpus
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should provide petitioner an opportunity to demonstrate indigency in support of an optional request to proceed in forma pauperis, so that the court could consider appointing counsel.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The court would consider appointing counsel if petitioner is indigent.” (at 1)

“Petitioner may optionally submit an affidavit in support of a request to proceed in forma pauperis within 21 days.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner Rajat Rajat is an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainee representing himself. He filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and paid the filing fee. The petition stated that petitioner lacked access to counsel.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

An Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainee filed a § 2241 habeas petition and paid the filing fee. During preliminary review under Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Habeas Corpus Cases Under Section 2254, the court noted petitioner's lack of access to counsel and provided an opportunity to submit an affidavit demonstrating indigency in support of an optional request to proceed in forma pauperis.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Weygandt v. Look, 718 F.2d 952, 954 (9th Cir. 1983)