

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MICHIGAN

**Ernesto Arturo Millan Lopez v. Kevin Raycraft, Director of
Enforcement and Removal Operations, Detroit Field Office, U.S.
Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Kristi Noem, Secretary, U.S.
Department of Homeland Security, Pamela Bondi, U.S. Attorney
General, and Executive Office for Immigration Review**

Millan Lopez · No. 25-13961 · Decided December 29, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan transfers a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas petition to the Western District of Michigan. The court concludes that jurisdiction over a core habeas petition challenging present physical confinement lies in the district of confinement, where the petitioner was detained.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
WRITING FOR THE COURT	David M. Lawson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
DECIDED	December 29, 2025
DOCKET	25-13961
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 seeking release from immigration detention pending deportation. The parties stipulated to transfer the case from the Eastern District of Michigan to the Western District of Michigan.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court order with no reporter citation or stated precedential designation.
PARTIES	Ernesto Arturo Millan Lopez v. Kevin Raycraft, Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations, Detroit Field Office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Kristi Noem, Secretary, U.S.

TOPICS

immigration

immigration detention

subject matter jurisdiction

removal proceedings

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration law

federal habeas corpus

civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a core habeas petition challenging present physical confinement must be filed in the federal district where the petitioner is confined.
2. Whether the Eastern District of Michigan should transfer rather than retain a § 2241 petition filed by an immigration detainee confined within the Western District of Michigan.

HOLDINGS

1. A core habeas petition challenging present physical confinement must be heard in the single federal district where the petitioner is confined; here, that district is the Western District of Michigan.
2. Transfer of the habeas petition to the district of confinement is the appropriate procedure when the petition was filed in the wrong federal district.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“District courts are limited to granting habeas relief ‘within their respective jurisdictions.’”

“for core habeas petitions challenging present physical confinement, jurisdiction lies in only one district: the district of confinement.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Ernesto Arturo Millan Lopez was detained at the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, Michigan, pending deportation. He filed a § 2241 petition seeking release from detention. Baldwin is in Lake County, within the Western District of Michigan, and the court presumed Lopez remained confined there when it entered the transfer order.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Lopez filed a core habeas petition while confined at the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, Michigan. Because Baldwin is located in the Western District of Michigan and the parties stipulated to transfer, the Eastern District of Michigan ordered the Clerk to transfer the case to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

DISPOSITION

CASES CITED

- *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, 542 U.S. 426, 442 (2004)
- *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, 542 U.S. 426, 443 (2004)
- *Cid-Barrios v. Raycraft*, No. 25-13630, 2025 WL 3724377, at *4 (E.D. Mich. Dec. 24, 2025)
- *Roman v. Ashcroft*, 340 F.3d 314, 322 (6th Cir. 2003)
- *Cid-Barrios v. Raycraft*, No. 25-13630, 2025 WL 3724377, at *6 (E.D. Mich. Dec. 24, 2025)
- *Roman v. Ashcroft*, 340 F.3d 314, 328 (6th Cir. 2003)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION ERNESTO ARTURO MILLAN LOPEZ, Petitioner, Case Number 25-13961 v. Honorable David M. Lawson KEVIN RAYCRAFT, Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations, Detroit Field Office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, KRISTI NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, PAMELA BONDI, U.S. Attorney General, and EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW, Respondents.

_____/ ORDER TRANSFERRING CASE TO THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN Petitioner Ernesto Arturo Millan Lopez has filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, seeking his release from detention pending deportation.

At the time he filed the petition, Lopez was confined at the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, Michigan. The Court presumes that he remains so situated today. Baldwin, Michigan is located in Lake County, which is situated within the Western District of Michigan. 28 U.S.C. § 102(b)(1).

The parties have filed a stipulation to transfer the case to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. “District courts are limited to granting habeas relief ‘within their respective jurisdictions.’” *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, 542 U.S. 426, 442 (2004) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 2241(a)).

Although respondent Kevin Raycraft, who is the Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations for the Detroit Field Office for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, is the proper respondent to this habeas corpus petition, *Cid-Barrios v. Raycraft*, --- F. Supp. 3d ---, No. 25-13630, 2025 WL 3724377, at *4 (E.D. Mich. Dec. 24, 2025) (citing *Roman v. Ashcroft*, 340 F.3d 314, 322 (6th Cir.

2003)), “for core habeas petitions challenging present physical confinement, jurisdiction lies in only one district: the district of confinement.” Padilla, 542 U.S. at 443. Because Lopez is confined within the territory of Michigan's Western District, he should have filed the petition in that court. Transfer of the petition is the appropriate procedure to address that misstep.

Cid-Barrios, 2025 WL 3724377, at *6 (citing Roman, 340 F.3d at 328 (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1631))). Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall TRANSFER this case to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. s/David M. Lawson DAVID M. LAWSON United States District Judge Dated: December 29, 2025