

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

David Betancourt Gomez v. Kristi Noem, et al.

No. 1:25-cv-1866 DC AC P · No. No. 1:25-cv-1866 DC AC P · Decided December 31, 2025

SUMMARY

The court orders transfer of an immigration detainee’s habeas corpus petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 to the Central District of California. The transfer is based on the petitioner’s detention at the Adelanto Detention Facility in San Bernardino County and the rule that jurisdiction lies in the district of confinement.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Allison Claire
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	December 31, 2025
DOCKET	No. 1:25-cv-1866 DC AC P
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner filed an application for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging his detention in ICE custody. After determining that petitioner was confined in Adelanto, California, within the Central District of California, the court transferred the action to that district.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order
PARTIES	David Betancourt Gomez v. Kristi Noem, et al.

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- federal habeas corpus
- immigration
- venue
- removal proceedings

PRACTICE AREAS

- immigration law
- federal habeas corpus
- venue and jurisdiction

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Eastern District of California had jurisdiction over a § 2241 petition filed by an immigration detainee confined at the Adelanto Detention Facility in the Central District of California.
2. Whether the action should be transferred to the Central District of California under 28 U.S.C. § 1631.

HOLDINGS

1. Jurisdiction over the § 2241 petition was proper only in the federal district where petitioner was confined, the Central District of California.
2. The action should be transferred in the interests of justice to the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Jurisdiction over this § 2241 petition is proper only in the district of confinement.” (at 1)

“Accordingly, in the interests of justice this action will be transferred to the United States District Court for the Central District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1631.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

David Betancourt Gomez was detained in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Adelanto Detention Facility in Adelanto, California. Adelanto is located in San Bernardino County, within the geographic area of the Central District of California. The petition challenged the legality of his detention under 28 U.S.C. § 2241.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner filed a § 2241 habeas petition challenging his immigration detention. The court had previously directed the Federal Defender to locate counsel, but counsel had not yet been appointed. Based on the petition and the ICE detainee locator, the court determined that petitioner was detained in the Central District of California and transferred the case there pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1631.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The action was transferred to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The Clerk was directed to serve a copy of the order on the Federal Defender, Attention: Habeas Appointment.

CASES CITED

- Doe v. Garland, 109 F.4th 1188, 1197-98 (9th Cir. 2024)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 DAVID BETANCOURT GOMEZ, No. 1:25-cv-1866 DC AC P 12 Petitioner,
13 v. ORDER 14 KRISTI NOEM, et al., 15 Respondent. 16 17 Petitioner, an immigration
detainee, has filed an application for a writ of habeas corpus 18 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241.

In his application, petitioner challenges his detention in U.S. 19 Immigration and Customs
Enforcement (ICE) custody. By order filed December 22, 2025, the 20 Federal Defender was
directed to locate counsel to represent petitioner, though counsel has yet to 21 be appointed. ECF
Nos. 7, 8.

However, it has since come to the court's attention that the petition 22 states petitioner was
incarcerated at the Adelanto Detention Facility in Adelanto, California, and 23 the ICE detainee
locator website confirms that petitioner is currently detained at that location. 24 Adelanto is
located in San Bernardino County, which is located in an area covered by the District 25 Court for
the Central District of California.

Jurisdiction over this § 2241 petition is proper only in 26 the district of confinement. See Doe v.
Garland, 109 F.4th 1188, 1197-98 (9th Cir. 2024). 27 Accordingly, in the interests of justice this
action will be transferred to the United States District 28 Court for the Central District of
California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1631. 1 In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY
ORDERED that: 2 1.

This matter is transferred to the United States District Court for the Central District of 3 |
California. 4 2. The Clerk of the Court is directed to serve a copy of this order on the Federal 5 ||
Defender, Attention: Habeas Appointment. 6 || DATED: December 31, 2025 ALLISON CLAIRE 8
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28