

LOUISIANA COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST CIRCUIT

Thomas Manuel v. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

No. 2026 CW 0613 (La. Ct. App. 2026) · No. 2026 CW 0613 · Decided June 29, 2026

SUMMARY

The Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit declined to consider supervisory writ applications challenging the denial of both the plaintiff's and defendants' motions for summary judgment. The court directed the parties to file separate applications addressing the specific rulings and substantive arguments, with any new application due by July 29, 2026 and accompanied by the required documentation.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit
WRITING FOR THE COURT	McClendon, C.J.; Stromberg, J.; Edwards, J.
JURISDICTION	Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit
DECIDED	June 29, 2026
DOCKET	2026 CW 0613
DISPOSITION	writ_denied
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendants applied for supervisory writs seeking review of the denial of both the plaintiff's and defendants' motions for summary judgment.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Madison D. Sheahan, in her official capacity as Secretary of the Department, Rachel Zechenelly, in her official capacity as Colonel of the Department's Enforcement Division, Will Roberts, in his official capacity as a Regional Captain with the Department v. Thomas Manuel

TOPICS

- writ of certiorari
- summary judgment
- appellate procedure
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- appellate procedure
- civil procedure
- administrative law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the supervisory writ application should be considered when it assigns error to the denial of both the plaintiff's and defendants' motions for summary judgment in a single application.
2. Whether the writ application complied with Louisiana appellate rules regarding the statement of substantive arguments and inclusion of pertinent documentation.

HOLDINGS

1. The writ application was not considered because the parties were required to file separate writ applications assigning error to the particular ruling under review and presenting the substantive arguments for each assignment of error.
2. The court would not consider supplementation or an application for rehearing and required any new application to include all pertinent documentation, address the missing items identified by the court, comply with Rule 2-12.2, and be filed by July 29, 2026.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“WRIT NOT CONSIDERED.”

“Although each application assigns error to the denial of both plaintiff’s and defendants’ motions for summary judgment, the parties should file separate writ applications which assign error to the ruling for which review is sought and set forth the substantive arguments with respect to the assignment of error(s).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The underlying litigation involved Thomas Manuel and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and related officials sued in their official capacities. The writ application concerned the district court's denial of both sides' motions for summary judgment.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The matter arose from the Nineteenth Judicial District Court for East Baton Rouge Parish, case number 744995. The court of appeal did not consider the writ application because it challenged rulings on both parties' summary-judgment motions in a single application and failed to include required documentation and substantive arguments. The court stated that any new application had to be filed by July 29, 2026, and comply with the applicable appellate rules.

DISPOSITION

writ_denied

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

STATE OF LOUISIANA COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST CIRCUIT THOMAS MANUEL NO. 2026 CW 0613 VERSUS LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES, MADTSON D. SHEAHAN, IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT, RACHEL ZECHENELLY, IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS COLONEL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, AND WILL ROBERTS, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS A REGIONAL CAPTAIN WITH THE DEPARTMENT JUNE 29, 2026 In Re: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Madison D. Sheahan, in her official capacity as former Secretary of the Department, Rachel Zechenelly, in her official capacity as former Colonel of the Department's Enforcement Division, and Will Roberts, in his official capacity as a Regional Captain with the Department, applying for supervisory writs, 19th Judicial District Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, No. 744995.

BEFORE: McCLENDON, C.J., STROMBERG AND EDWARDS, JJ. WRIT NOT CONSIDERED. Although each application assigns error to the denial of both plaintiff's and defendants' motions for summary judgment, the parties should file separate writ applications which assign error to the ruling for which review is sought and set forth the substantive arguments with respect to the assignment of error(s).

Supplementation of this writ application and/or an application for rehearing will not be considered. Uniform Rules of Louisiana Courts of Appeal, Rules 2-18.7 & 4-9. In the event relators seek to file a new application with this court, it must contain all pertinent documentation, including the missing items noted herein, and must comply with Uniform Rules of Louisiana Courts of Appeal, Rule 2-12.2.

Any new application must be filed on or before July 29, 2026, and must contain a copy of this ruling. PMc TPS BDE os CeuRT OF APPEAL, FIRST CIRCUIT a é NOH ALY 5 ry f J - oo &. \ ae a MU YY CE 'i UI CX) DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT (\ FOR THE COURT