

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
TEXAS, SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

Armando Becerra Vargas v. Pamela Jo Bondi et al.

Becerra Vargas v. Bondi · No. SA-25-CV-1023-FB · Decided November 26, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Texas accepts and adopts a magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation in an immigration habeas action. The court grants the petition in part and orders the petitioner’s release from custody, denies attorney’s fees, dismisses the motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction as moot, and closes the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Fred Biery
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division
DECIDED	November 26, 2025
DOCKET	SA-25-CV-1023-FB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed Respondents' objections to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation concerning Petitioner's habeas petition, request for attorney's fees, and motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo review of portions of the Report and Recommendation to which objections were made; a Report and Recommendation without objections is reviewed for clear error or contrariness to law, and de novo review is unnecessary for frivolous, conclusive, or general objections.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; nonprecedential.
PARTIES	Armando Becerra Vargas v. Pamela Jo Bondi, Kristi Lynn Noem, Todd M. Lyons, Sylvester Ortega, Reynaldo Castro

TOPICS

immigration detention

federal habeas corpus

injunctions

attorney fees

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration detention

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What standard of review applies to Respondents' objections to the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation?
2. Whether the habeas petition should be granted in part and Petitioner ordered released from immigration custody.
3. Whether Petitioner's request for attorney's fees should be denied.
4. Whether Petitioner's motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction should be dismissed as moot.

HOLDINGS

1. When objections are made to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation, the district court must conduct de novo review of the objected-to portions, although de novo review is unnecessary when the objections are frivolous, conclusive, or general in nature.
2. The habeas petition was granted in part, and Respondents were ordered to release Petitioner from custody.
3. Petitioner's request for attorney's fees was denied.
4. The motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction was dismissed as moot.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court hereby accepts, approves, and adopts the factual findings and legal conclusions by the United States Magistrate Judge contained in the Report and Recommendation (docket #18).” (Order text)

“Petitioner’s Petition for Habeas Corpus (docket entry no. 1) shall be GRANTED IN PART and Respondents shall be ORDERED to release Petitioner from their custody” (Order text)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner was held in immigration custody at the South Texas Detention Complex. The parties addressed the appropriate relief at a hearing, with Respondents arguing that immediate release, rather than an order requiring an immigration judge to conduct a bond hearing, was the appropriate remedy if the petition were granted. Petitioner agreed that immediate release was appropriate.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Magistrate Judge Bemporad recommended granting the habeas petition in part and ordering Petitioner's release, denying attorney's fees, and dismissing the motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction

as moot. Respondents objected and urged the district court to follow decisions favorable to them. The district court conducted de novo review, overruled the objections, adopted the Report and Recommendation, ordered Petitioner's release, denied fees, dismissed the injunctive motion as moot, and closed the case.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- United States v. Wilson, 864 F.2d 1219, 1221 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 492 U.S. 918 (1989)
- Battle v. United States Parole Commission, 834 F.2d 419, 421 (5th Cir. 1987)
- Covarrubias v. Vergara, No. 5:25-CV-112, 2025 WL 2950096, at *5 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 3, 2025)
- Buenrostro-Mendez v. Bondi, No. CV H-25-3726, 2025 WL 2886346, at *4 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 7, 2025)
- Matter of Yajure-Hurtado, 29 I&N Dec. 229

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