

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Hector Martin Prieto v. State of California, et al.

Prieto v. State of California · No. 1:25-cv-00618-SAB (PC) · Decided June 25, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California transferred a pro se prisoner's civil rights action to the Central District of California because the claims arose from events at California State Prison in Lancaster and the defendants appeared to reside there. The court ordered the clerk to close the action in the Eastern District of California.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Stanley A. Boone
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	June 25, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-cv-00618-SAB (PC)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A state prisoner filed a pro se civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 in the Eastern District of California. The court sua sponte determined that venue was improper and transferred the case to the Central District of California under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

TOPICS

- venue
- civil procedure
- section 1983
- prisoners rights

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil procedure
- Prisoner civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether venue was proper in the Eastern District of California when the alleged events occurred and the defendants appeared to reside in the Central District of California.

2. Whether the court should transfer the action to the Central District of California rather than dismiss it.

HOLDINGS

1. Venue was improper in the Eastern District of California because the claims arose from events in Los Angeles County and the defendants appeared to reside in the Central District of California.
2. The action should be transferred to the Central District of California in the interest of justice rather than dismissed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“In the interest of justice, a federal court may transfer a complaint filed in the wrong district to the correct district.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Hector Martin Prieto, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, filed a civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The complaint concerned events at California State Prison in Lancaster, Los Angeles County, which lies within the Central District of California. The defendants were employed at that facility and appeared to reside in the Central District.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the action and a motion to proceed in forma pauperis on May 27, 2025. The in forma pauperis motion was granted on May 28, 2025. After reviewing the complaint, the court found that the claims arose from events at a facility in Los Angeles County and transferred the matter to the Central District of California in the interest of justice, directing the clerk to close the Eastern District action.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Costlow v. Weeks, 790 F.2d 1486, 1488 (9th Cir. 1986)
- District No. 1, Pacific Coast Dist., M.E.B.A. v. State of Alaska, 682 F.2d 797, 799 n.3 (9th Cir. 1982)