

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
TENNESSEE

Keila Fernandez v. Christopher Bullock

Fernandez · No. 2:26-cv-02697-SHL-tmp · Decided June 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee ordered the respondent to respond within two business days to Keila Fernandez’s habeas petition challenging her immigration detention. The court stayed any transfer of Fernandez during the petition’s pendency and required the respondent to address the Sixth Circuit’s decision in Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft concerning individualized bond hearings.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Sheryl H. Lipman
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
DECIDED	June 17, 2026
DOCKET	2:26-cv-02697-SHL-tmp
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging immigration detention; the court issued an interlocutory order requiring a response and staying the petitioner's transfer pending further proceedings.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the habeas petition to determine the appropriate preliminary procedural directives; no merits standard of review was applied.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; interlocutory district court order
PARTIES	Keila Fernandez v. Christopher Bullock, Acting Director of the New Orleans Field Office of ICE, in his official capacity

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- immigration
- removal proceedings
- civil procedure
- injunctions

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration

immigration detention

habeas corpus

civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Respondent should be required to explain the statutory basis for Fernandez's detention and address the applicability of *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*.
2. Whether Fernandez should be protected from transfer out of the West Tennessee Detention Facility while her habeas petition is pending.

HOLDINGS

1. Respondent must file a written response within two business days and, if detention is based on 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and Respondent continues to oppose release, must distinguish *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft* or explain why that decision does not apply; absent such a showing, Respondent must state whether he consents to issuance of the writ.
2. Respondent shall not transfer Fernandez out of the West Tennessee Detention Facility during the pendency of the petition.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“On May 11, the Sixth Circuit issued the opinion in Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft, 175 F.4th 713 (6th Cir. 2026), affirming that a noncitizen who has spent “significant time . . . within the interior of the United States,” and who has not committed an offense rendering them ineligible under § 1226(c), may not be detained without an individualized bond hearing.”

“Respondent shall not transfer Fernandez out of the West Tennessee Detention Facility during the pendency of the Petition.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Keila Fernandez, a Venezuelan citizen who entered the United States in September 2023, was taken into ICE custody on February 17, 2026, during a routine ICE office check-in. The petition alleged that she was being held in mandatory detention at the West Tennessee Detention Facility and that she had no criminal history. She sought immediate and unconditional release from custody.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Fernandez filed a § 2241 habeas petition on June 16, 2026, seeking immediate and unconditional release from ICE custody. Respondent's counsel entered an appearance the following day. The court ordered Respondent to respond within two business days, permitted Fernandez to reply, and prohibited transfer of Fernandez during the pendency of the petition.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft, 175 F.4th 713 (6th Cir. 2026)

OPINION

Fernandez

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

WESTERN DIVISION

KEILA FERNANDEZ,)

) Petitioner,)) v.) No. 2:26-cv-02697-SHL-tmp) CHRISTOPHER BULLOCK, Acting Director)
of the New Orleans Field Office of ICE, in his) official capacity,) Respondent.)

ORDER STAYING TRANSFER AND REQUIRING RESPONSE

On June 16, 2026, Petitioner Keila Fernandez filed the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. (ECF No. 1.) Fernandez challenges “her illegal mandatory detention at the West Tennessee Detention Facility.” (Id. at PageID 1.) She is a citizen of Venezuela who entered the United States in September 2023. (Id. at PageID 3.) She has no criminal history of any kind. (Id. at PageID 4.) On February 17, 2026, she was taken into ICE custody during a routine ICE office check-in. (Id.) She seeks immediate and unconditional release from Respondent’s custody. (Id. at PageID 13.) She emailed the Petition to Respondent’s counsel at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Tennessee on June 16. (Id. at PageID 14.) Assistant U.S. Attorney Stuart J. Canale filed his notice of appearance the next day. (ECF No. 2.) On May 11, the Sixth Circuit issued the opinion in Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft, 175 F.4th 713 (6th Cir. 2026), affirming that a noncitizen who has spent “significant time . . . within the interior of the United States,” and who has not committed an offense rendering them ineligible under § 1226(c), may not be detained without an individualized bond hearing. 175 F.4th at 734. Upon review of the Petition, it is ORDERED as follows:

(1) Within two business days of this Order, Respondent shall respond to the Petition in writing. If the basis of Fernandez’s detention is 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and Respondent continues to oppose release, Respondent shall either distinguish this case from Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft, 175 F.4th 713 (6th Cir. 2026), or state why Lopez-Campos otherwise does not apply. If no such showing is made, Respondent shall state whether he consents to the issuance of the writ.

(2) Fernandez may file a reply after Respondent’s responsive filing.

(3) Respondent shall not transfer Fernandez out of the West Tennessee Detention

Facility during the pendency of the Petition. IT IS SO ORDERED, this 17th day of June, 2026. s/

Sheryl H. Lipman

SHERYL H. LIPMAN

CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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