

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)

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