

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Michael Corey Slaughter v. Tammy L. Campbell, Warden, California
State Prison - Corcoran

Slaughter · No. 1:05-cv-00922-KES · Decided December 22, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California grants Michael Corey Slaughter’s unopposed motion to substitute Danny Samuel, Warden of the California Men’s Colony–San Luis Obispo, for Tammy L. Campbell as the named respondent in the federal habeas action. The court holds that the petitioner’s transfer between state prisons does not affect the court’s jurisdiction, which attached when the habeas petition was filed.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	December 22, 2025
DOCKET	1:05-cv-00922-KES
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner in a pending federal habeas corpus proceeding moved, without opposition, to substitute the warden of his current correctional institution as the named respondent.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the motion, record, and controlling law; no heightened standard of review was stated.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Michael Corey Slaughter v. Tammy L. Campbell, Warden, California State Prison - Corcoran

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- personal jurisdiction
- pleadings
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- civil procedure
- personal jurisdiction

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the warden of the correctional facility currently holding a state habeas petitioner should be substituted as the named respondent after the petitioner is transferred during the federal habeas proceeding.
2. Whether the petitioner's transfer to another facility destroyed the federal court's jurisdiction over the habeas proceeding.

HOLDINGS

1. A petition for a writ of habeas corpus by a person in custody under a state-court judgment must name the state officer who has custody of the petitioner; because Slaughter was currently confined at the California Men's Colony, Danny Samuel, its warden, was the proper respondent.
2. A petitioner's transfer to another correctional facility and the resulting change in custodian do not destroy federal habeas jurisdiction when jurisdiction attached upon the initial filing and the challenged state-court judgment was rendered within the district's territorial jurisdiction.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“jurisdiction attaches on the initial filing for habeas corpus relief, and it is not destroyed by a transfer of the petitioner and the accompanying custodial change.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Slaughter filed a federal habeas petition challenging constitutional violations allegedly occurring during the state proceedings that resulted in his conviction and sentence. He was incarcerated at San Quentin when the proceeding began, transferred to California State Prison - Corcoran in May 2024, and transferred to the California Men's Colony in May 2025. Danny Samuel was the current warden of the facility where Slaughter was incarcerated when the motion to substitute was filed.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Slaughter initiated this federal habeas proceeding while incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison, naming the warden there as respondent. He was later transferred to California State Prison - Corcoran and then to the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo. The court granted his unopposed motion to substitute Danny Samuel, the current warden, for Tammy L. Campbell.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Stanley v. California Supreme Court, 21 F.3d 359, 360 (9th Cir. 1994)
- Francis v. Rison, 894 F.2d 353, 354 (9th Cir. 1990)
- Smith v. Campbell, 450 F.2d 829, 834 (9th Cir. 1971)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 MICHAEL COREY SLAUGHTER, Case No. 1:05-cv-00922-KES 12
Petitioner, DEATH PENALTY CASE 13 v. ORDER GRANTING PETITIONER'S UNOPPOSED
MOTION TO 14 TAMMY L. CAMPBELL, Warden, SUBSTITUTE RESPONDENT California
State Prison - Corcoran, 15 (Doc. 198) Respondent. 16 17 18 19 On July 2, 2025, petitioner
Michael Corey Slaughter, through appointed counsel the 20 Office of the Federal Defender for the
Eastern District of California, moved to substitute 21 Danny Samuel, Warden of the California
Men's Colony - San Luis Obispo, as respondent in 22 this action in place of Tammy L. Campbell,
Warden of California State Prison - Corcoran.

23 Counsel for petitioner states that counsel for respondent, Deputy Attorney General 24 Joseph
Penney, has no objection to the motion. 25 The Court has reviewed petitioner's motion and the
record and the controlling law and 26 will grant substitution of Danny Samuel as named
respondent, as discussed below. 27 A petition for writ of habeas corpus by an applicant in custody
under a state court judgment shall name as respondent the state officer who has custody.

28 U.S.C. § 2242; Rules 1 Governing § 2254 Cases, Rule 2(a). A failure to name the proper
respondent destroys 2 personal jurisdiction. *Stanley v. California Supreme Court*, 21 F.3d 359, 360
(9th Cir. 1994). 3 The record reflects that petitioner was incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison
when 4 he initiated this proceeding; in May of 2024, petitioner was transferred to California State
5 Prison - Corcoran; and in May of 2025, petitioner was transferred to the California Men's 6
Colony - San Luis Obispo.

(Docs. 3, 187, 198.) 7 The Court takes notice that: (i) the California Men's Colony is located at
Colony Drive, 8 San Luis Obispo, Cal. 93409, (ii) the current warden of the California Men's
Colony is Danny 9 Samuel, and (iii) petitioner is currently incarcerated at the California Men's
Colony.¹ 10 The Court's jurisdiction over this proceeding is unaffected by petitioner's transfer to
11 the California Men's Colony.

Petitioner claims that during state court proceedings resulting in 12 his conviction and sentence, he
suffered violations of his constitutional rights. (Docs. 3, 82.) 13 The challenged judgment was
rendered by the Stanislaus County Superior Court of the State 14 of California, which is located
within the territorial jurisdiction of this Court. (*Id.*); 28 U.S.C. 15 §§ 84(b), 2241(a)(d), 2254(a);
Local Rules for the Eastern District of California, Rule 191(f); 16 see also *Francis v. Rison*, 894
F.2d 353, 354 (9th Cir.

1990) (citing *Smith v. Campbell*, 450 17 F.2d 829, 834 (9th Cir.1971)) (“[J]urisdiction attaches on
the initial filing for habeas corpus 18 relief, and it is not destroyed by a transfer of the petitioner
and the accompanying custodial 19 change.”). 20 THEREFORE, the Court orders that: 21 1.
Petitioner's motion to substitute the warden of the California Men's Colony - 22 San Luis Obispo,

currently Danny Samuel, as respondent in place of Tammy L. 23 Campbell, Warden of California State Prison - Corcoran (Doc.

198), is 24 GRANTED. 25 2. The Clerk of the Court is directed to SUBSTITUTE the name of Danny Samuel, 26 Warden of the California Men's Colony – San Luis Obispo, for Warden Tammy 27 1 California Incarcerated Records & Information Search (CIRIS) - CDCR [re Michael Slaughter] (last visited December 8, 2025); Fed. R. Evid. 201. 1 L. Campbell, Warden of California State Prison - Corcoran, as named 2 respondent in this action.

3 4 5 [T IS SO ORDERED. _ 6 Dated: _ December 19, 2025 4h; UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28