

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)

