

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
GEORGIA, COLUMBUS DIVISION

L.A.R. v. Warden, Stewart Detention Center, et al.

L.A.R. · No. 4:25-cv-490-CDL-AGH · Decided December 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The court grants the petitioner’s § 2241 habeas motion in part and orders respondents to provide a bond hearing. The court concludes that the petitioner is detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), is not subject to mandatory detention, and is not a member of the bond-eligible class certified in Maldonado Bautista because the petitioner was apprehended upon arrival in the United States.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, Columbus Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Clay D. Land
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, Columbus Division
DECIDED	December 30, 2025
DOCKET	4:25-cv-490-CDL-AGH
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought habeas corpus relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 concerning detention and eligibility for a bond hearing.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	L.A.R. v. Warden, Stewart Detention Center, et al.

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- federal habeas corpus
- immigration
- remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

- immigration detention
- federal habeas corpus
- immigration
- remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Petitioner was a member of the Bond Eligible Class certified in *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*.
2. Whether Petitioner was subject to mandatory immigration detention.
3. Whether Petitioner was entitled to a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).

HOLDINGS

1. Petitioner was not a member of the certified Bond Eligible Class because Petitioner was apprehended upon arrival in the United States, while the class was limited to noncitizens who were not or would not be apprehended upon arrival.
2. Petitioner was detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), was not subject to mandatory detention, and was entitled to a bond hearing to determine whether release on bond was appropriate under § 1226(a)(2) and applicable regulations.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Accordingly, Petitioner’s motion for habeas corpus relief is granted to the extent that Respondents shall provide Petitioner with a bond hearing to determine if Petitioner may be released on bond under § 1226(a)(2) and the applicable regulations.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner was apprehended upon arrival in the United States. The court found that Petitioner was detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and was not subject to mandatory detention. Because Petitioner was apprehended upon arrival, the court concluded that Petitioner did not fall within the certified class in *Maldonado Bautista*, whose definition excluded noncitizens apprehended upon arrival.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

L.A.R. filed a § 2241 habeas petition challenging the legal basis for continued immigration detention. The district court determined that Petitioner was not a member of the Bond Eligible Class certified in *Maldonado Bautista*, was detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), and was not subject to mandatory detention. The court granted relief to the extent that Respondents were required to provide a bond hearing.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Respondents must provide Petitioner with a bond hearing to determine whether Petitioner may be released on bond under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)(2) and the applicable regulations.

CASES CITED

- Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, 2025 WL 3288403 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 25, 2025)
- J.A.M. v. Streeval, No. 4:25-CV-342-CDL, 2025 WL 3050094 (M.D. Ga. Nov. 1, 2025)
- P.R.S. v. Streeval, No. 4:25-CV-330-CDL, 2025 WL 3269947 (M.D. Ga. Nov. 24, 2025)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
COLUMBUS DIVISION L.A.R.,: Petitioner,: v.: Case No. 4:25-cv-490-CDL-AGH: 28 U.S.C. §
2241 Warden, STEWART DETENTION: CENTER, et al.,: Respondents.:

_____ ORDER Based on the present record, the Court finds that Petitioner is not a class member of the Bond Eligible Class certified in Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz, No. 5:25-CV- 01873-SSS-BFM, 2025 WL 3288403 (C.D.

Cal. Nov. 25, 2025) because Petitioner was apprehended on arrival in the United States and the certified class is defined to include only noncitizens who “were not or will not be apprehended upon arrival.” Id. at *9.

The Court further finds that Petitioner is currently detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and that Petitioner is not subject to mandatory detention. See J.A.M. v. Streeval, No. 4:25- CV-342-CDL, 2025 WL 3050094 (M.D. Ga. Nov. 1, 2025); P.R.S. v. Streeval, No. 4:25- CV-330-CDL, 2025 WL 3269947 (M.D. Ga. Nov. 24, 2025).

Accordingly, Petitioner’s motion for habeas corpus relief is granted to the extent that Respondents shall provide Petitioner with a bond hearing to determine if Petitioner may be released on bond under § 1226(a)(2) and the applicable regulations. See 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1 & 1236.1.1 1 The brevity of this order is appropriate given that the issue presented is exactly the same as the issue previously decided on numerous occasions by the Court and yet Respondents insist upon denying the relief that the Court has found is required.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 29th day of December, 2025. s/Clay D. Land CLAY D. LAND U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA