

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Antoine Barnes v. Napa State Hospital

Barnes · No. 2:25-cv-1192-JDP (P) · Decided April 28, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California determined that venue was improper because the defendant and events underlying the civil rights action were located in Napa County, within the Northern District of California. The court ordered the action transferred to the Northern District of California under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jeremy D. Peterson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	April 28, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-1192-JDP (P)
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed a pro se civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 in the Eastern District of California without paying the filing fee or submitting an in forma pauperis application. The court determined that venue was improper and transferred the action to the Northern District of California.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential district court order
PARTIES	Antoine Barnes v. Napa State Hospital

TOPICS

- venue
- section 1983
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether venue was proper in the Eastern District of California under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).
2. Whether the action should be transferred to the Northern District of California under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a) when filed in the wrong district.

HOLDINGS

1. Venue was improper in the Eastern District of California because the defendant was located and the claim arose in Napa County, which is in the Northern District of California.
2. A federal court may transfer a complaint filed in the wrong district to the correct district in the interest of justice, and this action was transferred to the Northern District of California under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The federal venue statute provides that a civil action “may be brought in (1) a judicial district in which any defendant resides, if all defendants are residents of the State in which the district is located, (2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated, or (3) if there is no district in which an action may otherwise be brought as provided in this action, any judicial district in which any defendant is subject to the court’s personal jurisdiction with respect to such action.”” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff was a civil detainee proceeding pro se and brought a civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Napa State Hospital was located in Napa County, and the court determined that the claim arose there, placing the relevant events in the Northern District of California.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Barnes filed a civil rights complaint against Napa State Hospital in the Eastern District of California. Because the defendant was located and the claim arose in Napa County, the court concluded that the Northern District of California was the proper venue and transferred the matter there in the interest of justice under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The matter was transferred to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The source does not state any additional instructions.

CASES CITED

- Starnes v. McGuire, 512 F.2d 918, 932 (D.C. Cir. 1974)

OPINION

In re Barnes

PER CURIAM.

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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 11 ANTOINE BARNES, Case No. 2:25-cv-1192-JDP (P) 12 Plaintiff, 13 v. ORDER

14 NAPA STATE HOSPITAL,

15 Defendant. 16

17 Plaintiff, a civil detainee proceeding pro se, has filed a civil rights action pursuant to 18 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff has neither filed an application to proceed in forma pauperis pursuant 19 to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 nor paid the filing fee for this action. 20 The federal venue statute provides that a civil action “may be brought in (1) a judicial 21 district in which any defendant resides, if all defendants are residents of the State in which the 22 district is located, (2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions 23 giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action 24 is situated, or (3) if there is no district in which an action may otherwise be brought as provided in 25 this action, any judicial district in which any defendant is subject to the court’s personal 26 jurisdiction with respect to such action.” 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). 27 In this case, the defendant is located, and the claim arose in Napa County, which is in the 28 Northern District of California. Therefore, plaintiff’s claim should have been filed in the United 1 | States District Court for the Northern District of California. In the interest of justice, a federal 2 | court may transfer a complaint filed in the wrong district to the correct district. See 28 U.S.C. 3 | § 1406(a); Starnes v. McGuire, 512 F.2d 918, 932 (D.C. Cir. 1974). 4 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this matter is transferred to the United 5 States District Court for the Northern District of California. 6 7 IT IS SO ORDERED. Dated: _ April 28, 2025 q_____

9 JEREMY D. PETERSON

10 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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