

COURT OF APPEALS OF TEXAS, THIRTEENTH DISTRICT, CORPUS
CHRISTI–EDINBURG

In re Fat Cat Boatworks, LLC

In re Fat Cat Boatworks · No. 13-26-00283-CV · Decided June 16, 2026

SUMMARY

The Thirteenth Court of Appeals of Texas denied Fat Cat Boatworks, LLC’s petition for writ of mandamus challenging the trial court’s joinder of claims. The court concluded that the relator had not established an abuse of discretion or the absence of an adequate remedy by appeal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals of Texas, Thirteenth District, Corpus Christi–Edinburg
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Ysmael D. Fonseca; Justice Silva; Justice Peña; Justice Fonseca
JURISDICTION	Court of Appeals of Texas, Thirteenth District, Corpus Christi–Edinburg
DECIDED	June 16, 2026
DOCKET	13-26-00283-CV
DISPOSITION	writ_denied
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Fat Cat Boatworks, LLC petitioned for a writ of mandamus challenging the trial court's allowance of joinder of claims. The Court of Appeals denied mandamus relief.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Mandamus requires a clear abuse of discretion and the absence of an adequate remedy by appeal. A trial court abuses its discretion when no evidence supports the finding underlying its ruling or when the court could reasonably have reached only a contrary conclusion. Adequacy of the appellate remedy is evaluated under a benefits-and-detriments analysis.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published memorandum opinion; the source identifies the opinion as published, but the text does not state a separate precedential designation.
PARTIES	Fat Cat Boatworks, LLC v. State of Texas

TOPICS

joinder

writ of certiorari

appellate procedure

standard of review

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

appellate procedure

commercial litigation

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the trial court clearly abused its discretion by allowing joinder of claims.
2. Whether Fat Cat Boatworks, LLC lacked an adequate remedy by appeal so as to warrant mandamus relief.

HOLDINGS

1. Mandamus relief was unavailable because Fat Cat Boatworks, LLC did not meet its burden to establish the requirements for mandamus relief.
2. A trial court abuses its discretion when no evidence supports the finding on which its ruling rests or when the court could reasonably have reached only a contrary conclusion.
3. The adequacy of a relator's remedy at law is evaluated through a benefits-and-detriments analysis.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A writ of mandamus is an extraordinary remedy that is available when the trial court clearly abused its discretion and the party seeking relief lacks an adequate remedy on appeal.”

“A court abuses its discretion if no evidence supports the finding on which its ruling rests and if the court could reasonably have reached only a contrary conclusion.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Fat Cat Boatworks, LLC challenged a trial-court ruling allowing the joinder of claims. It argued that the ruling constituted an abuse of discretion and that it lacked an adequate remedy by appeal. The appellate court reviewed the petition, response, reply, record, and applicable law, and concluded that the relator had not met its burden for mandamus relief.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The relator sought mandamus relief from an interlocutory trial-court ruling allowing joinder of claims, asserting both an abuse of discretion and the absence of an adequate remedy by appeal. After considering the petition, the real party in interest's response, the relator's reply, the record, and applicable law, the court denied the petition.

DISPOSITION

writ_denied

CASES CITED

- In re Ill. Nat'l Ins., 685 S.W.3d 826, 834 (Tex. 2024) (orig. proceeding)
- In re Prudential Ins. Co. of Am., 148 S.W.3d 124, 138 (Tex. 2004) (orig. proceeding)
- Walker v. Packer, 827 S.W.2d 833, 839–40 (Tex. 1992) (orig. proceeding)
- In re AutoZoners, LLC, 694 S.W.3d 219, 223 (Tex. 2024) (orig. proceeding) (per curiam)
- In re Auburn Creek Ltd. P'ship, 655 S.W.3d 837, 843 (Tex. 2022) (orig. proceeding) (per curiam)
- In re Prudential Ins. Co. of Am., 148 S.W.3d 124, 136–37 (Tex. 2004) (orig. proceeding)

OPINION

In Re Fat Cat Boatworks, LLC v. the State of Texas

PER CURIAM.

NUMBER 13-26-00283-CV

COURT OF APPEALS

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

CORPUS CHRISTI – EDINBURG

IN RE FAT CAT BOATWORKS, LLC

ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS

MEMORANDUM OPINION

Before Justices Silva, Peña, and Fonseca Memorandum Opinion by Justice Fonseca¹ By petition for writ of mandamus, relator Fat Cat Boatworks, LLC asserts that the trial court abused its discretion by allowing the joinder of claims and it lacks an adequate remedy by appeal. We deny the petition for writ of mandamus. A writ of mandamus is an extraordinary remedy that is available when the trial court ¹ See TEX. R. APP. P. 52.8(d) (“When denying relief, the court may hand down an opinion but is not required to do so. When granting relief, the court must hand down an opinion as in any other case.”); *id.* R. 47.4 (distinguishing opinions and memorandum opinions). clearly abused its discretion and the party seeking relief lacks an adequate remedy on appeal. In re Ill. Nat'l Ins., 685 S.W.3d 826, 834 (Tex. 2024) (orig. proceeding); In re Prudential Ins. Co. of Am., 148 S.W.3d 124, 138 (Tex. 2004) (orig. proceeding); Walker v. Packer, 827 S.W.2d 833, 839–40 (Tex. 1992) (orig. proceeding). “A court abuses its discretion if no evidence supports the finding on which its ruling rests and if the court could reasonably have reached only a contrary conclusion.” In re AutoZoners, LLC, 694 S.W.3d 219, 223 (Tex. 2024) (orig. proceeding) (per curiam). We conduct a “benefits-and- detriments analysis” to determine if the relator possesses an adequate remedy at law. In re Auburn Creek Ltd. P'ship, 655 S.W.3d 837, 843 (Tex. 2022) (orig. proceeding) (per curiam); see In re Prudential Ins. Co. of Am., 148 S.W.3d at 136–37. The Court, having examined and fully considered the petition for writ of mandamus, the response filed by real party in interest Paul “Pablo” Benavides, relator's reply thereto, the record, and the applicable law, is of the opinion that relator has not met its burden to obtain relief. Accordingly, we deny the petition for writ of mandamus.

YSMAEL D. FONSECA

Justice Delivered and filed on the 16th day of June, 2026. 2

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