

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
TEXAS, CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

Jose Angel Valadez Diaz v. Eric Guerrero

Diaz · No. 2:26-CV-00018 · Decided January 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The court transfers a habeas action under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 from the Corpus Christi Division to the McAllen Division of the Southern District of Texas. Because the petitioner was convicted in Hidalgo County, the court concludes that the McAllen Division is more convenient and that transfer serves the interests of justice. Pending motions are denied as moot and may be renewed after transfer.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Corpus Christi Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	United States Magistrate Judge
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Corpus Christi Division
DECIDED	January 13, 2026
DOCKET	2:26-CV-00018
DISPOSITION	transferred
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner filed a state habeas action under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging Hidalgo County, Texas convictions. The district court transferred the action from the Corpus Christi Division to the McAllen Division of the Southern District of Texas.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court opinion

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- venue
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Federal habeas corpus
- Federal civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the § 2254 habeas action should be transferred from the Corpus Christi Division to the McAllen Division of the Southern District of Texas because the petitioner was convicted there and the relevant records and witnesses are located there.

HOLDINGS

1. A § 2254 habeas action may be transferred to the federal district or division in which the state court that convicted and sentenced the petitioner was located when transfer would be more convenient and further the interests of justice.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Because Petitioner was convicted in Hidalgo County, it is more convenient and would further the interests of justice for this action to be handled in the McAllen Division of the Southern District of Texas.” (at 1)

“Accordingly, it is ORDERED that this case be transferred to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, McAllen Division.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner is a Texas state prisoner incarcerated at the Garza West Unit in Beeville, Texas, which is located in Bee County. He challenges convictions entered in Hidalgo County on December 9, 2022, seeking relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The court found that the conviction records and the prosecution and defense attorneys were located in the McAllen Division.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner filed the habeas action on January 12, 2026, while incarcerated in Bee County, within the Corpus Christi Division. His challenged convictions were entered in Hidalgo County, within the McAllen Division. The court transferred the case to the McAllen Division and denied all pending motions as moot, subject to renewal after transfer.

DISPOSITION

transferred

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The case was ordered transferred to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, McAllen Division. Pending motions were denied as moot and may be renewed after transfer.

CASES CITED

- Wadsworth v. Johnson, 235 F.3d 959 (5th Cir. 2000)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT January 13, 2026 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
Nathan Ochsner, Clerk CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION JOSE ANGEL VALADEZ DIAZ, § §
Petitioner, § § VS. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:26-CV-00018 § ERIC GUERRERO, § § Respondent.
§ OPINION AND ORDER OF TRANSFER This is a habeas action filed on January 12, 2026, by
a state prisoner incarcerated at the Garza West Unit in Beeville, Texas, which is located in Bee
County.

(D.E. 1). In his complaint, Plaintiff challenges his December 9, 2022 Hidalgo County, Texas
convictions, seeking relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. (D.E. 1). A habeas action may be filed
either in the district where petitioner is in custody or in the district in which petitioner was
convicted. 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d); Wadsworth v. Johnson, 235 F.3d 959 (5th Cir.

2000). Petitioner's place of incarceration is in the Corpus Christi Division of the Southern District
of Texas and he was convicted by a court located in the McAllen Division of the Southern District
of Texas. 28 U.S.C. § 124(b)(7).

For the convenience of parties and witnesses, in the interest of justice, a district court may transfer
any civil action to any other district or division where it might have been brought. 28 U.S.C. §§
1404(a) and 1406(a). A habeas application may be transferred in furtherance of justice to the
district court within which the state court was held which 1 / 2 convicted and sentenced the
petitioner.

28 U.S.C. § 2241(d). Because Petitioner was convicted in Hidalgo County, it is more convenient
and would further the interests of justice for this action to be handled in the McAllen Division of
the Southern District of Texas.

The records of his conviction and the prosecutor and defense lawyers are all located in the
McAllen Division of the Southern District of Texas. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that this case be
transferred to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, McAllen
Division. All pending motions are DENIED as moot and are subject to renewal after the case is
transferred.

ORDERED on January 13, 2026. C Jason & Libby Z United States Magistrate Judge 2/2