

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS AT BEAUMONT

In re Douglas Eugene Miles

No. 09-25-00501-CR · No. 09-25-00501-CR · Decided January 7, 2026

SUMMARY

The Ninth Court of Appeals of Texas dismissed Douglas Eugene Miles’s original petition for a writ of habeas corpus for lack of jurisdiction. The court held that intermediate courts of appeals lack original habeas jurisdiction over criminal matters and that Texas Code of Criminal Procedure article 11.07 provides the exclusive procedure for felony post-conviction challenges. The court also concluded that Miles’s references to a writ of error, quo warranto, and notice of appeal did not establish an appealable proceeding.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals for the Ninth District of Texas at Beaumont
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Golemon, C.J.; Johnson, J.; Wright, J.
JURISDICTION	Ninth Court of Appeals of Texas at Beaumont
DECIDED	January 7, 2026
DOCKET	09-25-00501-CR
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Miles filed an original pro se petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the court of appeals, challenging the validity of a criminal conviction. The court dismissed the petition for lack of jurisdiction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Jurisdictional review; the court determined its authority to entertain the original habeas petition as a matter of law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential; opinion marked Do Not Publish
PARTIES	Douglas Eugene Miles v. State of Texas

TOPICS

- habeas corpus
- appellate jurisdiction
- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- post-conviction relief

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal procedure
- habeas corpus
- appellate jurisdiction
- post-conviction relief
- remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court of appeals has original habeas corpus jurisdiction to review a criminal conviction.
2. Whether Texas Code of Criminal Procedure article 11.07 provides the exclusive procedure for a felony defendant sentenced to prison to challenge the conviction.
3. Whether Miles's characterizations of the filing as a writ of error, quo warranto complaint, or notice of appeal supplied an alternative basis for jurisdiction.

HOLDINGS

1. An intermediate court of appeals lacks original habeas corpus jurisdiction in criminal matters; its habeas jurisdiction is appellate only.
2. Texas Code of Criminal Procedure article 11.07 provides the exclusive procedure for a defendant convicted of a felony and sentenced to a prison term to challenge the conviction through habeas corpus.
3. Labeling the filing as a writ of error, quo warranto complaint, or notice of appeal does not create jurisdiction to challenge criminal confinement or a criminal conviction in the court of appeals absent an appealable trial-court order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“An intermediate court of appeals lacks original habeas jurisdiction in criminal law matters.” (at 1)

“After conviction the procedure outlined in this Act shall be exclusive and any other proceeding shall be void and of no force and effect in discharging the prisoner.” (at 1)

“We dismiss the petition for lack of jurisdiction.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Miles sought habeas relief concerning a criminal conviction identified by Trial Cause Number F20-33734. He also characterized his filing as a writ of error, a quo warranto complaint, and a notice of appeal for a new petition for writ of habeas corpus. He did not identify another criminal case, an appealable order denying habeas relief, or facts establishing a basis for the court of appeals to proceed as an appeal.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Miles identified Trial Cause Number F20-33734 in the 252nd District Court of Jefferson County, Texas, and claimed that the judgment of conviction was void. He did not identify an appealable order denying habeas relief. The Ninth Court of Appeals concluded that it lacked original habeas jurisdiction over the criminal matter and dismissed the proceeding.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Denby v. State, 627 S.W.2d 435 (Tex. App.—Houston [1st Dist.] 1981, orig. proceeding)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

In The Court of Appeals Ninth District of Texas at Beaumont _____ NO. 09-25-
00501-CR _____ IN RE DOUGLAS EUGENE MILES

Original
Proceeding 252nd District Court of Jefferson County, Texas Trial Cause No. F20-33734

MEMORANDUM OPINION Douglas Eugene Miles filed an original petition for a writ of habeas corpus in a criminal case.

He claims the judgment of conviction in Trial Cause Number F20- 33734 is void. 1 We dismiss the petition for lack of jurisdiction. The statutory grant of power to issue a writ of habeas corpus to “the court of appeals of a court of appeals district in which a person is restrained in his liberty[]” is limited to restraint of liberty of a person within our district “by virtue of an order, process, or commitment issued by a court or judge because of the violation of an 1 No other trial court case is referred to in the petition.

1 order, judgment, or decree previously made, rendered, or entered by the court or judge in a civil case.” Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. § 22.221(d). An intermediate court of appeals lacks original habeas jurisdiction in criminal law matters. See Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann. art. 11.05 (By Whom Writ May Be Issued); see also Denby v. State, 627 S.W.2d 435 (Tex. App.—Houston [1st Dist.]

1981, orig. proceeding) (“The Courts of Appeals have no original habeas corpus jurisdiction in criminal matters; their jurisdiction is appellate only.”). What’s more, article 11.07 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure provides the exclusive means by which a defendant convicted of a felony and sentenced to a prison term may challenge his conviction. See Tex. Code Crim.

Proc. Ann. art. 11.07, § 3 (“After final conviction in any felony case, the writ must be made returnable to the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas at Austin, Texas.”), § 5 (“After conviction the procedure outlined in this Act shall be exclusive and any other proceeding shall be void and of no force and effect in discharging the prisoner.”). Miles also refers to his petition as a “Writ of Error” and as a “Quo Warranto Complaint.” Neither procedure applies to a challenge to confinement brought by a pro se defendant in a criminal case.

See Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code Ann. § 51.012 (“In a civil case in which the judgment or amount in controversy exceeds \$250, exclusive of interest and costs, a person may take an appeal or writ of error to the court of appeals from a final judgment of the district or county court.”); § 66.002 2 (“If grounds for the remedy exist, the attorney general or the county or district attorney of the

proper county may petition the district court of the proper county or a district judge if the court is in vacation for leave to file an information in the nature of quo warranto.”).

Finally, Miles titled his petition Notice of Appeal for a New-Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus. It is possible that Miles is currently confined in jail by reason of his arrest in an active criminal case, but Miles failed to identify any case other than Trial Cause Number F20-33734 and he has not identified an appealable trial court order denying an application for a writ of habeas corpus in Trial Cause Number F20- 33734 or in any other criminal case.

Accordingly, Miles has not shown that this proceeding should proceed as an appeal. See generally Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann. art. 11.08 (“If the applicant is accused of committing a felony offense, whether by indictment, information, warrant, arrest, or other means, and has not been convicted of the offense, the applicant or petitioner may apply: (1) to the judge of the court in which the indictment or information charging the applicant is pending[.]”); Tex. R. App.

P. 31. We dismiss the petition for lack of jurisdiction. PETITION DISMISSED. PER CURIAM Submitted on January 6, 2026 Opinion Delivered January 7, 2026 Do Not Publish Before Golemon, C.J., Johnson and Wright, JJ. 3