

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

William D. Lawson Jr. v. B. Cates

Lawson v. Cates · No. 25-cv-06661-SVK · Decided October 16, 2025

OPINION

1 2 3 4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 5 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 6 7
WILLIAM D. LAWSON JR., Case No. 25-cv-06661-SVK 8 Plaintiff, ORDER OF TRANSFER v.
9 10 B. CATES, Defendant. 11 12 Petitioner, a California prisoner proceeding without an attorney,
filed this petition for a 13 writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

The petition challenges the validity of Petitioner's 14 conviction in Butte County Superior Court.
15 A petition for a writ of habeas corpus made by a person in custody under the judgment 16 and
sentence of a state court of a state which contains two or more federal judicial districts may be 17
filed in either the district of confinement or the district of conviction.

See 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d). 18 Each of such districts shall have concurrent jurisdiction to entertain
the petition; however, the 19 district court for the district where the petition is filed may transfer
the petition to the other district 20 in the furtherance of justice. See *id.* Federal courts in California
traditionally have chosen to hear 21 petitions challenging a conviction or sentence in the district of
conviction.

See *Dannenberg v. Ingle*, 831 F. Supp. 767, 768 (N.D. Cal. 1993); *Laue v. Nelson*, 279 F. Supp.
265, 266 (N.D. Cal. 23 1968); see also N.D. Cal. Habeas L.R. 2254-3(b) (mandating transfer to
the district of conviction). 24 As Petitioner challenges the validity of his conviction, the proper
venue for his petition is 25 the district in which he was convicted.

Butte County is located within the venue of the Eastern 26 District of California. See 28 U.S.C. §
84(b). 27 Accordingly, in the interest of justice, this case is hereby TRANSFERRED to the United
] The Clerk shall transfer this matter forthwith. 2 3 SO ORDERED. 4 Dated: October 16, 2025 5 6
Samm veh Susan van Keulen 7 United States Magistrate Judge 8 9 10 11 a 12 14 15 16 17 © 18
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