

SUPREME COURT OF OREGON

Hernandez v. Thrasher

374 Or. 643 (2025) · No. S072503 · Decided December 24, 2025

SUMMARY

The Oregon Supreme Court granted Natalia Joanne Hernandez's petition for habeas corpus and ordered her immediate discharge from custody. The court held, consistent with Arellano-Sanchez v. Thrasher, that ORS 144.350 did not authorize the Oregon Department of Corrections to issue an order for her arrest and return while a motion to correct her judgment remained pending. The court also directed the State Court Administrator to issue the appellate judgment immediately and denied attorney fees because the state's position was not frivolous.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Oregon
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Garrett, J.
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of Oregon
DECIDED	December 24, 2025
DOCKET	S072503
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original habeas corpus proceeding in the Oregon Supreme Court. Plaintiff sought immediate release from custody after the Department of Corrections issued an order for her arrest and return based on a recalculation of her sentence-credit calculation.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo consideration of the legality of plaintiff's imprisonment in an original habeas corpus proceeding.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Oregon Supreme Court opinion; en banc and precedential.
PARTIES	Natalia Joanne Hernandez v. Charlotte Thrasher, Superintendent, Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

TOPICS

- habeas corpus
- sentencing
- post-conviction relief
- appellate procedure
- statutory interpretation

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether ORS 144.350 authorized the Department of Corrections to issue an order for plaintiff's arrest and return under the circumstances.
2. Whether plaintiff's resulting imprisonment was unlawful and required immediate discharge through habeas corpus.

HOLDINGS

1. ORS 144.350 did not authorize the Department of Corrections to issue the order for plaintiff's arrest and return under the circumstances presented.
2. Because plaintiff's present imprisonment was unlawful, the court ordered defendant to discharge her immediately.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Accordingly, for the reasons stated in Arellano-Sanchez, we conclude that ORS 144.350 did not authorize DOC to issue the order for plaintiff's arrest and return and that, as a result, plaintiff's present imprisonment is unlawful." (647)

"We order defendant to discharge plaintiff from custody immediately." (647)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff pleaded guilty to offenses in Marion County cases 19CR78400 and 20CR62272 and received three consecutive sentences totaling 85 months. The judgments stated that plaintiff may receive credit for time served under ORS 137.370, and DOC later recalculated that credit after the Oregon Supreme Court's decision in Torres-Lopez, determining that plaintiff's projected release date had passed and releasing her onto post-prison supervision. After the district attorney sought to correct the judgment and DOC returned to its original calculation, DOC issued an order for plaintiff's arrest and return; plaintiff surrendered and was detained.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

After plaintiff pleaded guilty in two Marion County criminal cases and received consecutive sentences totaling 85 months, the Department of Corrections initially recalculated her credit for time served and released her onto post-prison supervision. The trial court later initiated proceedings to amend the judgment, and DOC recalculated the credit, concluded that plaintiff still had time to serve, and issued an order for her arrest and return. Plaintiff surrendered and petitioned the Oregon Supreme Court for an original writ of habeas corpus; the trial court's motion to correct the judgment remained pending.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

CASES CITED

- State ex rel. Torres-Lopez v. Fahrion, 373 Or. 816, 572 P.3d 1045 (2025)
- State ex rel. Torres-Lopez v. Fahrion, 374 Or. 423, ___ P.3d ___ (2025)
- Arellano-Sanchez v. Thrasher, 374 Or. 623, ___ P.3d ___ (Dec. 24, 2025)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

No. 56 December 24, 2025 643 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON NATALIA JOANNE HERNANDEZ, Plaintiff, v. Charlotte THRASHER, Superintendent, Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Defendant. (SC S072503) En Banc Original proceeding in habeas corpus. Submitted on the record December 22, 2025. Julia Yoshimoto, Oregon Justice Resource Center, Portland, filed the petition and the memorandum in support of the petition for plaintiff.

Paul L. Smith, Interim Solicitor General, Salem, filed the response to the petition for defendant. Also on the response was Dan Rayfield, Attorney General. GARRETT, J. It is hereby ordered that plaintiff immediately be discharged from her illegal imprisonment. Pursuant to ORAP 1.20(5) and notwithstanding ORAP 9.25 and ORAP 14.05 (3)(b), the State Court Administrator shall issue the appellate judgment immediately.

644 Hernandez v. Thrasher Cite as 374 Or 643 (2025) 645 GARRETT, J. Plaintiff was prosecuted in several cases in Marion County for crimes, including delivery of methamphetamine and attempted first-degree assault with a firearm.

In 2021, she pleaded guilty to Count 1 in Case No. 19CR78400 and Counts 3 and 4 in Case No. 20CR62272. Plaintiff was sentenced to a total term of incarceration of 85 months. That term of incarceration was the result of three consecutive sentences: First, the trial court imposed a 16-month sentence on Count 3 in Case No. 20CR62272. With regard to that count, the judgment stated, “Credit for time served is pursuant to ORS 137.370 for case number[s] 19CR78400, 20CR52634, 19CR53050.

[Plaintiff] may receive credit for time served.” Second, the court imposed a 29-month sentence on Count 4 in the same case, which was to be served consecutively to Count 3. With regard to that count, the judgment stated, “Credit for time served is pursuant to ORS 137.370 for case numbers[s] 19CR78400, 20CR52634, 19CR53050. [Plaintiff] may receive credit for time served.” Third, the court imposed a 40-month sentence on Count 1 in Case No. 19CR78400, which was to be served consecutively to the sentences in Case No. 20CR62272.

With regard to that count, the judgment stated, “Credit for time served pursuant to ORS[] 137.370 for case number[s] 20CR62272, 19CR78400, 20CR52634 and 19CR53050. [Plaintiff] may receive

credit for time served.” In 2025, we issued a decision concerning the calculation of credit for time served under ORS 137.370(4). *State ex rel Torres-Lopez v. Fahrion*, 373 Or 816, 572 P3d 1045 (Torres-Lopez I), *adh’d to as modified on recons*, 374 Or 423, ___ P3d ___ (2025) (Torres-Lopez II).

Following our decision in *Torres-Lopez I*, the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) recalculated plaintiff’s credit for time served and determined that plaintiff’s projected release date was in the past. In August 2025, DOC released plaintiff from a correctional facility. According to a “State of Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision Order of Supervision Conditions” attached to plaintiff’s petition, she was released onto post-prison supervision (PPS).

646 *Hernandez v. Thrasher* Then, in late October, the district attorney’s office filed a motion pursuant to ORS 137.172 to correct the judgment of conviction to clarify the sentencing court’s intent in Case No. 19CR78400. See ORS 137.172(1) (“The trial court retains authority after entry of judgment of conviction * * * to modify the judgment, including the sentence, to correct any arithmetic or clerical errors or to delete or modify any erroneous term in the judgment.

The court may correct the judgment either on the motion of one of the parties or on the court’s own motion after written notice to all of the parties.”). Thereafter, the trial court issued a notice of its intent to amend the judgment of conviction, pursuant to ORS 137.172(1) and the court’s common-law authority, to add the following statement to the judgment, “The court intends that any credit under ORS 137.370(4) for one or more consecutive sentences in this judgment be applied a single time towards the total term of incarceration imposed as a result of those consecutive sentences.” (Boldface omitted.)

The notice informed plaintiff that she could object to the amendment. On November 25, plaintiff’s attorney objected. Around the same time, DOC recalculated plaintiff’s credit for time served and “returned to the original calculation.” Based on that calculation, DOC determined that plaintiff still had time left to serve on her term of incarceration.

On November 22, DOC issued an “Order for Arrest and Return of Prisoner,” which stated that plaintiff had “escaped from custody or ha[d] not completed service of [her] term of incarceration and is therefore a fugitive from justice and subject to arrest and detention in accordance with [ORS] 144.350.” The order directed any “Sheriff, Peace Officer, Parole Officer, or Corrections Officer” to take plaintiff “into custody and have [plaintiff] detained until an agent of [DOC] arrives and custody can be transferred to the agent.” After plaintiff received a call from the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office on November 24 informing her of DOC’s order for her arrest, plaintiff turned herself into the Marion County Jail on November 25.

The district attorney’s motion to correct the judgment remains pending in the trial court. Cite as 374 Or 643 (2025) 647 Thereafter, plaintiff petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus, requesting that

this court exercise its original jurisdiction and order her immediate release from prison. See Or Const, Art VII (Amended), § 2 (“[T]he supreme court may, in its own discretion, take original jurisdiction in * * * habeas corpus proceedings.”).¹ Plaintiff’s petition presents the same legal issues decided this day in *Arellano-Sanchez v. Thrasher*, 374 Or 623, ___ P3d ___ (Dec 24, 2025), and the circumstances in this case are qualitatively indistinguishable from those in *Arellano-Sanchez*.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated in *Arellano-Sanchez*, we conclude that ORS 144.350 did not authorize DOC to issue the order for plaintiff’s arrest and return and that, as a result, plaintiff’s present imprisonment is unlawful.

We order defendant to discharge plaintiff from custody immediately. See ORS 34.700(1) (“If it appears that the party detained is imprisoned or restrained illegally, judgment shall be given that the party be discharged forthwith[.]”).

We further waive otherwise applicable appellate rules relating to reconsideration and the issuance of the appellate judgment, and we direct the State Court Administrator to issue the appellate judgment immediately. See ORAP 1.20(5) (permitting the court, for good cause and on its own motion, to waive any rule of appellate procedure); ORAP 9.25 (providing for reconsideration); ORAP 14.05 (3)(b) (providing for the timing of the issuance of the appellate judgment).² It is hereby ordered that plaintiff immediately be discharged from her illegal imprisonment.

Pursuant to ORAP 1.20(5) and notwithstanding ORAP 9.25 and ORAP 14.05(3)(b), the State Court Administrator shall issue the appellate judgment immediately. ¹ See also ORS 34.310 (providing that every person who is “imprisoned or otherwise restrained of liberty,” with exceptions, “may prosecute a writ of habeas corpus to inquire into the cause of such imprisonment or restraint, and if illegal, to be delivered therefrom”).

² ORS 34.700(2) provides that a court “shall include in the judgment an order that the defendant pay the attorney fees incurred by the petition, not to exceed \$100,” if “[t]he court enters a judgment requiring that the plaintiff be discharged” and “[t]he court finds that the allegations or defenses in the return were frivolous.” Under the circumstances, we do not find that the state’s position was frivolous.

For that reason, plaintiff is not entitled to attorney fees under the statute.