

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA

Manuel A. Molina Marquez v. Lawrence Catletti, et al.

Molina Marquez v. Catletti · No. 6:26-cv-00390 · Decided February 10, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana denied Manuel A. Molina Marquez’s motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction concerning his removal from the United States. The court found that his request regarding removal from New York was moot and that he was unlikely to succeed on his claim that immigration detention was unlawful because he had not received a bond hearing. The court referred his habeas corpus petition to the magistrate judge for consideration and disposition.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Alexander C. Van Hook
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana
DECIDED	February 10, 2026
DOCKET	6:26-cv-00390
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction in connection with a federal habeas petition challenging his immigration detention. The habeas case was transferred from the Southern District of New York to the Western District of Louisiana.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	To obtain a preliminary injunction, the movant must show that he is likely to succeed on the merits.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court order designated per curiam with no reporter citation.

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- federal habeas corpus
- injunctions
- removal proceedings

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration

federal habeas corpus

immigration detention

injunctions

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Petitioner's request to prevent removal from the Southern District of New York was moot because he had already been transported from New York.
2. Whether Petitioner was entitled to a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction preventing his removal from the United States.
3. Whether Petitioner's challenge to detention based on the absence of a bond hearing established a likelihood of success on the merits.

HOLDINGS

1. The request was moot because Petitioner had already been transported out of New York when he filed the petition.
2. Petitioner was not entitled to a preliminary injunction because he failed to show that he was likely to succeed on the merits.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner Manuel A. Molina Marquez was detained by immigration authorities and had been transported from the Southern District of New York before filing his motion. He sought to restrain the government from removing him from New York and from removing him from the United States. His habeas petition argued that his detention was unlawful because immigration authorities had not provided a bond hearing, but he did not argue that he was entitled to lawful status in the United States.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Molina Marquez filed a habeas petition and a motion for temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction in the Southern District of New York. On February 9, 2026, that court transferred the case to the Western District of Louisiana because Petitioner had been detained in Alexandria, Louisiana when he filed the petition. The district court denied the requested injunctive relief and referred the habeas petition to the magistrate judge for consideration and disposition.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The petition for a writ of habeas corpus was referred to the magistrate judge for consideration and disposition.

CASES CITED

- United States v. Abbott, 110 F.4th 700, 706-07 (5th Cir. 2024)

- Victor Buenrostro-Mendez v. Pamela Bondi, et al., No. 25-20496, 2026 WL 323330 (5th Cir. Feb. 6, 2026)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE DIVISION MANUEL A. MOLINA MARQUEZ CIVIL ACTION NO. 26-0390 VERSUS JUDGE ALEXANDER C. VAN HOOK LAWRENCE CATLETTI, ET AL. MAGISTRATE JUDGE McCLUSKY ORDER Pending before the Court is a motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction filed by the Petitioner, Manuel A. Molina Marquez, who proceeds pro se.

The Petitioner filed his motion alongside a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. On February 9, 2026, the Southern District of New York transferred the case to the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. R. Doc. 13 (explaining Petitioner had been in custody in Alexandria, Louisiana when he filed his petition).

In his motion for a temporary restraining order, the Petitioner asked that the Court restrain the government from removing him from the Southern District of New York. Because the Petitioner had already been transported out of New York when he filed that petition, this request is moot.

The Petitioner also asked that the Court enjoin the government from removing him from the United States. To obtain a preliminary injunction, the Petitioner must show that he is “likely to succeed on the merits” of his case. *United States v. Abbott*, 110 F.4th 700, 706-07 (5th Cir. 2024).

In his petition for a writ of habeas corpus, the Petitioner argued that his detention is unlawful because the immigration authorities have not provided him with a bond hearing. Notably, the Petitioner made no argument that he is entitled to lawful status in the United States. Regarding the lack of a bond hearing, in *Victor Buenrostro-Mendez v. Pamela Bondi, et al.*, No. 25- 20496, 2026 WL 323330 (5th Cir.

Feb. 6, 2026), the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit recently found that illegal aliens are not entitled to such a hearing, even if they have resided in the United States for years. Accordingly, the Petitioner is not likely to succeed on the merits of his case, and his motion for a temporary restraining order is DENIED.

The Court further orders that the Petitioner’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus is REFERRED to the Magistrate Judge for consideration and disposition. DONE AND SIGNED at Shreveport, Louisiana, this 10th day of February, 2026. (Vi lh Ws CV | HOOK UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE