

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

**CYNTHIA HOLDEN
VERSUS
ROBERT RACHAL**

**CIVIL ACTION
NO. 10-4390
SECTION ‘T’ (6)**

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

This matter was referred to the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge to conduct hearings, including an Evidentiary Hearing if necessary, and to submit Proposed Findings and Recommendations pursuant to **Title 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and (C)**, and as applicable, **Rule 8(b) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases**. Upon review of the petition, the Court has determined that this matter can be disposed of without an Evidentiary Hearing. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2254(e)(2).

The petitioner, Cynthia Holden, filed a petition seeking *habeas corpus* relief pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. § 2254, related to her February 19, 2008 conviction for theft in the 19th Judicial District Court for East Baton Rouge Parish. She was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment at hard labor.

East Baton Rouge Parish is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. Title 28 U.S.C. § 98(b). The petitioner is presently incarcerated in the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women in Tallulah, Louisiana, which

is located in Madison Parish, within the boundaries of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. Title 28 U.S.C. § 98(c).

Title 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d) provides for the proper venue in filing a petition for federal habeas corpus relief:

Where an application for a writ of habeas corpus is made by a person in custody under the judgment and sentence of a State court of a State which contains two or more Federal judicial districts, the application may be filed in the district court for the district wherein such person is in custody or in the district court for the district within which the State court was held which convicted and sentenced him and each of such district courts shall have concurrent jurisdiction to entertain the application. The district court for the district wherein such an application is filed in the exercise of its discretion and in furtherance of justice may transfer the application to the other district court for hearing and determination.

Thus, in a multi-district state such as Louisiana, the application may be filed either in the district in which the petitioner is incarcerated or in the district in which he was convicted and sentenced. Under § 2241(d), the district court for the district where the application is filed may, in the exercise of its discretion and in the furtherance of justice, transfer the application to another district court for hearing and determination. In addition, 28 U.S.C. § 1406 provides that the district court of a district in which is filed a case laying venue in the wrong division or district, shall dismiss or, if it be in the interest of justice, transfer the case to any district or division in which it could have been brought.


The Court believes that it is in the interest of justice to transfer this case to the Middle District of Louisiana where petitioner was convicted and where the evidence and witnesses will more likely be easily located and produced.

RECOMMENDATION

For the foregoing reasons, **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Cynthia Holden's habeas petition be **TRANSFERRED** to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

A party's failure to file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation in a magistrate judge's report and recommendation **within fourteen (14) days** after being served with a copy shall bar that party, except upon grounds of plain error, from attacking on appeal the unobjected-to proposed factual findings and legal conclusions accepted by the district court, provided that the party has been served with notice that such consequences will result from a failure to object. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *Douglass v. United Services Automobile Association*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1430 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc).¹

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 29th day of November, 2010.



LOUIS MOORE, JR.
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

¹ *Douglass* referenced the previously applicable ten-day period for the filing of objections. Effective December 1, 2009, 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) was amended to extend that period to fourteen days.