

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

BEAUMONT DIVISION

JAMES EDWARD CHATMAN §
VS. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:06cv52
DIRECTOR, TDCJ-CID §

MEMORANDUM OPINION REGARDING TRANSFER

Petitioner James Edward Chatman, an inmate confined at the Stiles Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division (“TDCJ-CID”), proceeding *pro se*, brings this petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

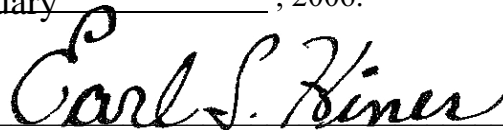
The above-styled action was referred to the undersigned magistrate judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636 and the Local Rules of Court for the Assignment of Duties to United States Magistrate Judges for findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for the disposition of the case.

Discussion

Title 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a) allows a district court to “entertain an application for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a). A state prisoner is required to file his federal petition for writ of habeas corpus in the district where the prisoner is incarcerated or the district where the prisoner was convicted and sentenced. 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d). Although both district courts have jurisdiction to entertain the application, “[t]he 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.” *Id.*

Petitioner was convicted and sentenced in Harris County which is located in the Houston Division of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. This court has jurisdiction because petitioner is confined in the Eastern District of Texas. However, the court has considered the circumstances and has determined that the interests of justice would best be served by transferring this petition to the district where petitioner was convicted and sentenced. Therefore, the petition should be transferred to the Southern District of Texas for hearing and determination. An order transferring the case will be entered by the undersigned.

SIGNED this 31 day of January, 2006.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl S. Hines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

EARL S. HINES
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE