

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

TODD W. ALTSCHUL

§

VS.

§

CIVIL ACTION NO. 5:14cv87

DIRECTOR, TDCJ-CID

§

MEMORANDUM ORDER REGARDING TRANSFER

Petitioner Todd W. Altschul, an inmate confined at the Telford Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division, proceeding *pro se*, filed this petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

Discussion

On May 21, 1992, in the 23rd District Court for Brazoria County, Texas, petitioner was convicted of possession of a deadly weapon in a penal institution. Petitioner was sentenced to 15 years' confinement in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division. Petitioner brings this petition challenging his conviction and sentence.¹

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d), a petitioner may bring his petition for writ of habeas corpus in the district court for the district wherein such person is in custody or in the district court for the district within which he was convicted. Section 2241(d) further provides that the district court in the exercise of its discretion may transfer the action to the other district in the furtherance of justice.

¹ Petitioner admits he is no longer confined pursuant to the conviction challenged in this petition. Petitioner states he is currently serving sentences for two other convictions which are not being challenged in this petition.

Petitioner is currently confined at the Telford Unit in New Boston, Texas. However, petitioner was convicted and sentenced in Brazoria County, Texas. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 124, Brazoria County is in the Galveston Division of the Southern District of Texas.

While jurisdiction is proper in the Eastern District of Texas because the prisoner is confined within the district court's territorial boundaries, the court has considered the circumstances and has determined that the interest of justice would best be served if this petition were transferred to the division in which the petitioner was convicted.

Under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a), for the convenience of parties and witnesses and in the interest of justice, a district court may transfer any civil action to any other district or division where it could have been brought. Such a transfer may be done *sua sponte* and is reviewable only for an abuse of discretion. *Mills v. Beech Aircraft Corp.*, 886 F.2d 758, 761 (5th Cir. 1989).

Since petitioner complains of a conviction which occurred in the Galveston Division of the Southern District of Texas and all records and witnesses involving this action may be located in the Southern District, the transfer of this action to such division would further justice. Therefore, it is the opinion of the undersigned that this petition should be transferred to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Galveston Division. An Order of Transfer so providing shall be entered in accordance with this Memorandum Order.

SIGNED this 29th day of October, 2014.


CAROLINE M. CRAVEN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE