

ORIGINAL

No. _____

25-6284

ORIGINAL

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

FILED

NOV 28 2025

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPREME COURT, U.S.

LEONARD W. HOUSTON

— PETITIONER

(Your Name)

VS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

— RESPONDENT(S)

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT**

(NAME OF COURT THAT LAST RULED ON MERITS OF YOUR CASE)

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

LEONARD W. HOUSTON

(Your Name)

148 DEER COURT DRIVE, BLDG. 4

(Address)

MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK 10940

City State Zip Postal

845-343-8923

(Phone Number)

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED

**WAS IT ABUSE OF DISCRETION ON ALL CLJA ACTIONS
ON INDIVIDUAL DOCKETS, AS COUNSEL FOR THE
DEFENDANT NEED NOT FILE RESPONSIVE PLEADINGS
IN STAYED INDIVIDUALS CLJA ACTIONS?**

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APPENDIX A	United States Court of Appeals For the Fourth Circuit – PER CURIAM : Denied the petition for a writ of mandamus. Filed: 08/15/2025. USCA4 Appeal: 25-1763
APPENDIX B	United States Court of Appeals For the Fourth Circuit – ORDER Denied the petition for rehearing and rehearing <i>en banc</i> . Filed: 10/27/2025 USCA4 Appeal: 25-1763
APPENDIX C	
APPENDIX D	United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina ORDER as the petition for writ of mandamus seeks relief from the court of appeals and not this Court., <i>et al.</i> Case 7:23-cv-01202-BO-RJ. Filed: 10/30/25
APPENDIX E	In the House of Representatives: H.R. 8545 To amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to make technical corrections 118 TH CONGRESS - 2d SESSION – May 23, 2024 In the Senate of the United States – June 16, 2022 <i>Resolved</i> , that the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 3967) entitled “An Act to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances And for other purposes>” do pass with the following AMENDMENT 136 Stat. 1766, Public Law 117-168 – AUG. 10, 2022

LIST OF PARTIES

- ☒ All parties appear in the caption of the case on the cover page.
- ☐ All parties **do not** appear in the caption of the case on the cover page. A list of all parties to the proceeding in the court whose judgment is the subject of this petition is as follows:

RELATED CASES

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES CITED

Citation to Cases:

In Re: Camp Lejeune Water Litigation

PAGE NUMBER

Case No. 7:23-cv-00897 (E.D.N.C., Pacer No. 23 at 4)

Docket No. 7:23-cv-01202 -BO-RJ.....

Cheney v. U.S. Dist. Ct.

542 U.S. 367 (2004)

In re Murphy-Brown, LLC

907 f.3d 788 (4th Cir. 2018)

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Petitioner respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment below.

OPINIONS BELOW

☐ For cases from **federal courts**:

The opinion of the United States court of appeals appears at Appendix A to the petition and is

- ☐ reported at _____; or,
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
☒ is unpublished.

The opinion of the United States district court appears at Appendix C to the petition and is

- ☒ reported at In re: Leonard W. Houston; or,
No. 25-1763 (4th Cir. Aug. 15, 2025)
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
☐ is unpublished.

☐ For cases from **state courts**:

The opinion of the highest state court to review the merits appears at Appendix _____ to the petition and is

- ☐ reported at _____; or,
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
☐ is unpublished.

The opinion of the _____ court appears at Appendix _____ to the petition and is

- ☐ reported at _____; or,
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
☐ is unpublished.

JURISDICTION

☒ For cases from **federal courts**:

The date on which the United States Court of Appeals decided my case was 08/15/2025.

☐ No petition for rehearing was timely filed in my case.

☒ A timely petition for rehearing was denied by the United States Court of Appeals on the following date: 10/27/2025, and a copy of the order denying rehearing appears at Appendix B.

☐ An extension of time to file the petition for a writ of certiorari was granted to and including _____ (date) on _____ (date) in Application No. A.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. § 1254(1).

☐ For cases from **state courts**:

The date on which the highest state court decided my case was _____.
A copy of that decision appears at Appendix _____.

☐ A timely petition for rehearing was thereafter denied on the following date: _____, and a copy of the order denying rehearing appears at Appendix _____.

☐ An extension of time to file the petition for a writ of certiorari was granted to and including _____ (date) on _____ (date) in Application No. A.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. § 1257(a).

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

United States Code

28 § 1361

28 § 2671

Pub. L. No.

117-168, § 804, 136 Stat. 1802-04 (2022)

804 (b), 136 Stat. 1802

Other Authorities

Title 38 U.S.C. "Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson *"Honoring our Promise to address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or Honoring our PACT Act of 2022, Section 804 Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (CLJA), as amended*

APPENDICES

Appendix House of Representatives – H.R. 8545-A BILL

To amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to make technical corrections.
118th Congress, 2d Session - "Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2024"
May 23, 2024

Appendix United States Senate- AMENDMENT

Title 38, United States Code

"Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022" or "Honoring our PACT Act of 2022: June 16, 2022

including excerpts from 136 Stat. 1766-67, Public Law 117-186 – AUG. 19, 2022

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The Petitioner, Leonard W. Houston, proceeding pro se, has initiated a statutory cause of action against the United States of America under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2020 ("CLJA"), Pub.L. 117-168 § 804, 136 Stat. 1802-04 (2022). This legislation provides appropriate relief for injuries and disorders resulting from toxic water exposure at Camp Lejeune, a harm suffered by the Petitioner from March 1959 to March 1963. The Petitioner asserts his right to expedite the processing of his claim, a right expressly recognized within the CLJA statute.

Additionally, the Petitioner has filed a petition for a writ of mandamus, seeking an order from the District Court to (1) lift the stay on his individual action under the CLJA and (2) resolve the action in a timely fashion following the United States' response. The stay was imposed by the District Court's September 26, 2023, Case Management Order, entered on its "Master Docket" for CLJA claims, which halted progress on all individual CLJA actions pending further selection for discovery and trial.

On June 3, 2025, the District Court denied the Petitioner's Motion #25 for Entry of Default against the United States, filed in response to the initial Complaint entered on August 2, 2023, and the subsequent Short-Form Complaint submitted on December 27, 2023. This denial, issued without prejudice under Case Management Order No. 2, reaffirmed the ongoing stay of all individual CLJA actions and responsive pleadings. The Petitioner contends that this construction of the CLJA by the District Court constitutes an abuse of discretion, obstructing the timely resolution and settlement of his claim.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE PETITION

The Petitioner respectfully requests that the Court of Appeals issue a writ of mandamus, directing the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina to amend its Case Management Order No. 2. Specifically, the Petitioner seeks removal of the "Stay" provision that has delayed individual claims and asks for an order ensuring expedited adjudication and appropriate relief for those harmed by exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, pursuant to CLJA § 804(b), 136 Stat. 1802.

The Petitioner asserts that the District Court erred and abused its discretion by staying all individual CLJA actions, thereby denying immediate relief and compensation for injuries caused by Camp Lejeune's contaminated water. The delay in processing claims constitutes a gross injustice and deprives the Petitioner of statutory rights under the CLJA. The authority to stay proceedings is a statutory power, but in this case, it amounts to an abuse of process and violates the right to a fair trial (FRCP 38(b), 28 U.S.C § 2671, as amended).

The Camp Lejeune Justice Act was designed to address injustices faced by veterans and to streamline access to rightful claims, ensuring timely resolution for those affected.

Having met the legal requirements for mandamus jurisdiction, the Petitioner requests that this Court grant relief. The delay caused by the Defendant is so egregious as to warrant mandamus, as established in *In re Core Comms, Inc.*, 531 F.3d 849, 855 (D.C. Cir. 2008). The Petitioner references the six TRAC factors from *Telecommunications Research & Action Center v. FCC (TRAC)*, 750 F.2d 70, 80 (D.C. Cir. 1984), which guide the assessment of whether governmental delay is unreasonable, particularly considering the impact on human health and welfare.

Given the Petitioner's advanced age and ongoing illnesses, the consequences of indefinite delay are severe. Arguments that delays may favor claimants are without merit, as prompt adjudication is essential. The Court must review the effect of delayed action on the Petitioner's CLJA claim.

The "Stay" Provision as Abuse of Discretion

The Defendant's failure to respond, facilitated by the stay imposed by Case Management Order No. 2, amounts to an abuse of discretion. The Court should enter default against the Defendant for not defending the CLJA suit. The pace of adjudication is not a discretionary function immune from review; rather, mandamus is appropriate to compel action.

The Petitioner's request for affirmative relief is supported by sufficient factual pleadings, showing abuse of discretion and the denial of timely justice. The Camp Lejeune Justice Act was intended to rectify injustices and streamline access for veterans harmed by toxic water, yet unforeseen obstacles persist, and timely resolution remains elusive.

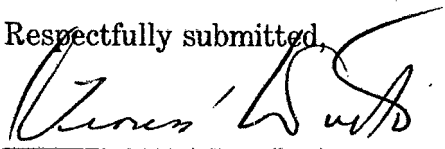
Mandamus relief is governed by standard factors when a statutory right is denied, as asserted in this petition.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Petitioner requests that the Court issue a writ of mandamus directing the District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina to amend Case Management Order No. 2, dated September 26, 2023. Specifically, the Petitioner asks that the provision allowing the Defendant's counsel to refrain from filing responsive pleadings in stayed CLJA actions be deleted and replaced with an order promoting the efficient and timely adjudication or settlement of claims under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, as part of the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, signed into law on August 10, 2022. The Petitioner seeks transparent, efficient, and timely processing of claims for those impacted by contaminated water, or alternatively, completion of the relief demanded in his filed Short-Form Complaint.

The petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: December 1, 2025