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Date: Monday, April 6, 2026 at 06:40 PM CDT

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
No. 25-6836

In re Rodolfo Vela Sr., et al.,
Petitioners

SUPPLEMENTAL LETTER CALLING ATTENTION TO INTERVENING AUTHORITY
Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 15.8

Petitioners respectfully submit this supplemental letter under Rule 15.8 to call the Court's attention to two intervening Fifth Circuit decisions issued after the petition was docketed on February 17, 2026. These cases provide additional support for Petitioners' arguments regarding equitable tolling and fraudulent concealment in § 1983 claims. Petitioners also briefly clarify facts already in the record.

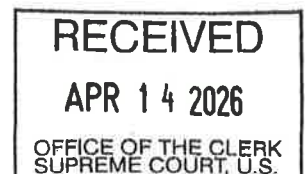
1. Intervening Authority

- *Quiroz v. Hernandez*, No. 25-40032 (5th Cir. Feb. 12, 2026): The Fifth Circuit reaffirmed that equitable tolling, though applied sparingly, is available where a defendant engages in fraudulent concealment and the plaintiff exercised reasonable diligence. The court also discussed the discovery rule for inherently undiscoverable injuries.
- *Jenkins v. Tahmahkera*, No. 24-10724 (5th Cir. Aug. 19, 2025): The court clarified that tolling based on concealment requires defendant-specific concealment and continued diligence by the plaintiff.

These decisions reinforce that tolling remains available in exceptional cases involving active concealment by named defendants — precisely the circumstances alleged here.

2. Clarification of Record Facts on Concealment

The record already contains evidence that Deputy Tom Stephens led the 2001 investigation, reached conclusions inconsistent with the second autopsy (homicide rather than overdose), and allegedly suppressed or dismissed key evidence (including the Blackfish report regarding water heater capacity). Stephens was subsequently transferred back to street patrol. These facts, combined with Petitioners' family affidavits and the inherent undiscoverability of the full extent of the alleged cover-up until 2022, support application of equitable tolling and the discovery rule despite the passage of time.



Petitioners respectfully request that the Court consider this intervening authority and record clarification when reviewing the petition. No new claims or arguments are raised.

Respectfully submitted,



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(Pro Se Petitioners)

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on this 7 day of April, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Supplemental Letter was served via U.S. Mail, first-class postage prepaid, on all parties required by the Court's rules.



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