25-7040

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

MIGUEL A. COLÓN-MARTE,
Petitioner,

v.

LESLIE A. MARTINEZ-ARCE, et al.,
Respondents.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

to the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment requires a state supreme court, when exercising extraordinary or supervisory jurisdiction over federal constitutional claims, to provide a meaningful opportunity to be heard—including by requiring respondents to file responsive pleadings and permitting development of the record—before disposing of the case without findings or explanation.

2. Whether due process is violated when a state supreme court forecloses adjudication of federal constitutional claims by denying requests for answers, record development, or fact-finding and then terminates the proceeding through an unexplained summary order.

3. Whether the Equal Protection Clause is violated when extraordinary state procedures operate in practice to permit institutional respondents—including government-adjacent parties and judicial actors—to avoid answering constitutional claims through nonresponsive filings while pro se litigants are denied meaningful review.

OPINIONS BELOW

Per Curiam Order, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (Dec. 9, 2025) (App. 1).

Order denying Application for Reconsideration (Dec. 17, 2025) (App. 2).

Prothonotary letter returning administrative/supervisory correspondence (Jan. 6, 2026) (App. 3).

JURISDICTION

The judgment sought to be reviewed was entered by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on December 9, 2025. Reconsideration was denied on December 17, 2025. (App. 1; App. 2.) This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1257(a).

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This petition presents a federal constitutional question concerning procedural due process, equal protection, and meaningful access to courts. Petitioner does not ask this Court to decide custody merits; rather, the petition challenges the constitutional adequacy of the procedures used to terminate federal claims.

Nonresponsive filings and lack of record development. After Petitioner sought extraordinary relief raising federal constitutional issues, respondents submitted "no-answer" letters rather than substantive responses addressing the merits. Petitioner filed motions requesting orders compelling responsive pleadings and record development to permit adjudication of the constitutional claims. Those motions were denied.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania then denied all relief by per curiam order without findings or explanation and later denied reconsideration. (App. 1; App. 2.)

After denial of extraordinary relief and denial of reconsideration, Petitioner submitted administrative or supervisory correspondence seeking review of procedural irregularities. The Prothonotary returned the materials by letter dated January 6, 2026, stating the case was closed and additional documents could not be accepted under Pa. R.A.P. (App. 3.)

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE PETITION

This case presents an important federal question concerning whether a state supreme court may terminate federal constitutional claims through nonresponsive filings, denial of record development, and unexplained summary orders in a manner that forecloses a meaningful opportunity to be heard as required by the Fourteenth Amendment.

Procedural Foreclosure Through Nonresponsive Filings. In the proceeding below, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania permitted respondents to avoid substantive participation through "no-answer" letters, denied Petitioner's motions to compel responsive pleadings and record development, and then terminated the case by summary order without findings or explanation. The combined effect was to prevent adjudication of federal constitutional claims on any developed record.

The state procedure operated as a structural denial of federal adjudication. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania accepted the matter in extraordinary posture yet permitted respondents to file nonresponsive "no-answer" letters in lieu of answers or opposition on the merits. Petitioner sought basic procedural safeguards necessary for constitutional adjudication, including orders compelling responsive pleadings, record production, and neutral record development. Those requests were denied. The court then disposed of the case by unexplained per curiam order and denied reconsideration, thereby terminating the constitutional claims without findings, without an evidentiary record, and without any mechanism for meaningful review.

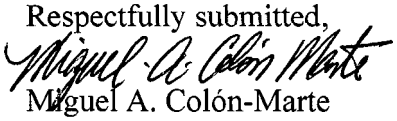
Minimum process is required where constitutional accountability is at stake. When a litigant alleges systemic constitutional deprivations, due process requires procedures sufficient to permit fair presentation and adjudication of the federal issues. A regime that allows respondents to

avoid answering, blocks record development, and terminates claims without findings or explanation risks insulating institutional respondents from constitutional accountability. This Court should grant review to clarify that extraordinary state jurisdiction may not be administered so as to render federal rights unenforceable in practice.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,



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