No. _____

**IN THE**
**SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

GUALE YAMASSEE TANASI TRIBAL GOVERNMENT,
*Applicant,*

v.

LAWRENCE PETER RHEA III; TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES; and COMMISSIONER, TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES,
*Respondents.*

Directed to the Honorable Brett M. Kavanaugh, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and Circuit Justice for the Sixth Circuit

**APPLICATION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME WITHIN WHICH TO FILE A PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT**

**TO THE HONORABLE BRETT M. KAVANAUGH, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES AND CIRCUIT JUSTICE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT:**

Under Supreme Court Rules 13.5, 22, and 30.2, Applicant Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government (the "Tribal Government") respectfully asks for an extension of sixty days, to and including January 3, 2027, within which to file a petition for a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in No. 26-5379. Twana Coleman, an enrolled member of the Tribe and the mother of J.L.R., has applied separately for the same extension. *Coleman v. Rhea* (mailed October 10, 2026, by registered mail no. 9589 0710 2665 7363 90; see Rule 29.2). The two applications are coordinated so that the questions they raise can be presented to this Court together.

**THE JUDGMENT TO BE REVIEWED**

1. On June 16, 2026, the court of appeals dismissed the appeal of the Tribal Government and Ms. Coleman for lack of appellate jurisdiction and entered judgment. No. 26-



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5379, Dkts. 3, 4. The appeal arose from the April 3, 2026 order of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee transferring their habeas corpus petition, No. 3:26-cv-00132, to the Western District of Tennessee, where it is pending as No. 2:26-cv-02378. Copies of the order and judgment are attached as Exhibits A and B.

2. Rehearing en banc was denied on August 6, 2026. No. 26-5379, Dkt. 6. The court of appeals issued no separate opinion. A copy of that order is attached as Exhibit C. The mandate issued on August 14, 2026. Dkt. 7 (Exhibit D).

3. Under Rule 13.3, because the court of appeals denied a timely petition for rehearing, the time to file a petition runs from August 6, 2026, and the petition is due November 4, 2026. This application is submitted more than ten days before that date, as Rule 13.5 requires.

## JURISDICTION

4. This Court will have jurisdiction over the petition under 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1).

## THE APPLICANT

5. The Tribal Government was a Petitioner-Appellant in the court of appeals and is a party in this Court under Rule 12.6. Its principal offices are in Memphis, Tennessee. Ms. Coleman is an enrolled member of the Tribe. Her child, J.L.R., is a registered member child of the Tribe. The Tribal Government asserts its own interest in the welfare and placement of J.L.R. It does not ask the Court, on this application, to decide any question about the application of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

6. The court of appeals' orders caption Ms. Coleman as "next friend" of J.L.R. The Tribal Government did not authorize that designation. It objected by a Notice of Non-Authorization of Case Caption (September 14, 2026) and by a Motion to Correct Clerical Error in Case Caption, received by the Clerk on September 14, 2026. The Clerk returned the motion without

ruling on September 28, 2026, stating that no further activity would occur in the case. Exhibit E; Exhibit F ¶ 6. The Tribal Government preserves its objection and does not waive its independent status.

7. An entity appears in this Court through counsel. *Rowland v. California Men's Colony*, 506 U.S. 194, 201–02 (1993). The Tribal Government is seeking counsel admitted to the bar of this Court. Because the deadline in Rule 13.5 is imminent, it submits this application through its authorized representative, Chief LightFoot, solely to preserve its time, and asks leave to substitute counsel promptly.

**REASONS AN EXTENSION IS JUSTIFIED**

8. The Tribal Government does not have a complete record of what was filed and what became of it. Exhibit F ¶¶ 3–4. In the Western District, No. 2:25-cv-03107, the docket report retrieved October 22, 2026 has no entry numbered 37; it runs from entry 36 (Mar. 24, 2026) to entry 38 (Apr. 7, 2026). The Tribal Government's December 5, 2025 emergency filing (Dkt. 2) appeared on the public docket as terminated on or about February 2, 2026, and was not restored until the Tribal Government filed Dkt. 27 on February 5, 2026, which was not entered until February 9, three days after the case was closed (Dkt. 26). The Tribal Government opposed the motion to seal (Dkt. 14), and the motion was granted on January 29, 2026 (Dkt. 20). The Tribal Government is aware of no findings in Dkt. 20 and was given no notice or opportunity to submit redacted copies. Its motions to unseal and vacate (Dkts. 23, 24), filed on February 3, 2026, three days before the case was closed, were never ruled on. In the related appeal, No. 26-5114, docket entries 1 through 4 no longer appeared on the public docket as of October 22, 2026. The clerk must keep a record of all papers filed and orders entered, Fed. R. App. P. 45(b)(1), and a court record may be sealed only on stated findings, *Shane Group, Inc. v. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan*,

825 F.3d 299, 305–306 (6th Cir. 2016). In No. 26-5379, the June 16, 2026 docket notice states "No mandate to issue," Exhibit G, yet a mandate issued on August 14, 2026, Exhibit D. From February 2026 until about July 2026, the Tribal Government's Sixth Circuit filings were routed through the Western District clerk because it was told it could not mail them to the Sixth Circuit or register as a PACER filer, and in about July 2026 that clerk stopped accepting them. Exhibit F ¶ 4. The Tribal Government is asking each clerk, by letters dated October 23, 2026, for certified dockets, and needs time to receive them and assemble an accurate appendix.

9. The Tribal Government has not been heard. The emergency request filed December 5, 2025 in No. 2:25-cv-03107 (Dkt. 2) was not decided by the district judge until February 6, 2026, sixty-three days after filing and thirty-eight days after the Tribal Government's objections to the magistrate judge's recommendation (Dkts. 10, 15), and the case was closed that day (Dkt. 26). The appeal, No. 26-5114, has been fully briefed since July 10, 2026 and remains undecided. The objections and motion for recusal filed September 21, 2026 in No. 2:26-cv-02378 remain undecided. No federal court has held a hearing on J.L.R.'s safety and placement Due process requires "an opportunity to be heard at a meaningful time and in a meaningful manner." *Armstrong v. Manzo*, 380 U.S. 545, 552 (1965); see *Mullane v. Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co.*, 339 U.S. 306, 314 (1950). Congress has directed that federal courts "shall expedite the consideration of" habeas corpus actions and actions for temporary or preliminary injunctive relief, 28 U.S.C. § 1657(a), and that a court entertaining a habeas application "shall summarily hear and determine the facts," 28 U.S.C. § 2243. A decision-maker must also be impartial. *Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co.*, 556 U.S. 868, 876–877 (2009).

10. J.L.R. remains in the State's custody, apart from her mother and her Tribe. On January 10, 2026, a burn on J.L.R. was discovered while she was in that custody (W.D. Dkt. 18,

filed Jan. 12, 2026). The court of appeals dismissed for want of appellate jurisdiction, No. 26-5379, Dkts. 3–4, and No. 26-5114 is undecided, so no appellate court has reviewed the denial of emergency protection for her. Time is needed so that the petition accurately presents what happened in each court and what did not.

11. The Tribal Government is seeking counsel. An extension will allow counsel to appear and will allow the questions concerning the Tribe and its member child to be presented in a single, orderly filing alongside Ms. Coleman's petition, rather than piecemeal.

12. The questions are important. Parents hold a fundamental liberty interest in the care and custody of their children. *Santosky v. Kramer*, 455 U.S. 745, 753 (1982). A tribe has its own interest in its member children. 25 U.S.C. § 1901(3); *Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians v. Holyfield*, 490 U.S. 30, 52 (1989). The petition will ask whether a court of appeals may decline all review of a transfer order that disposed of an emergency motion to protect a child in the State's custody, while the child remains apart from her mother and her Tribe.

13. No party will be prejudiced. An extension will not change the status quo or delay any proceeding below. The Tribal Government does not, by this application, ask the Court to delay protective relief for J.L.R., and it reserves the right to apply for such relief under Rules 22 and 23 while the petition is being prepared.

## CONCLUSION

The Tribal Government respectfully asks that the time to file a petition for a writ of certiorari in this matter be extended for sixty days, to and including January 3, 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

_____

Chief LightFoot, Prime Minister and Sovereign Head of Government

Authorized Representative for Applicant Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government

13 S. Prescott St., P.O. Box 111608, Memphis, Tennessee 38111; yamasseechief58@icloud.com; 202-569-4237

Dated: October ____, 2026

## EXHIBITS

Exhibit A. Order of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit dismissing appeal, No. 26-5379, Dkt. 3-1 (June 16, 2026)

Exhibit B. Judgment of the Sixth Circuit, No. 26-5379, Dkt. 4 (June 16, 2026)

Exhibit C. Order of the Sixth Circuit denying petition for rehearing en banc, No. 26-5379, Dkt. 6-1 (Aug. 6, 2026)

Exhibit D. Mandate and transmittal letter, No. 26-5379, Dkt. 7 (Aug. 14, 2026)

Exhibit E. Clerk's letter returning Petitioners' Motion to Correct Clerical Error in Case Caption without ruling, Dkt. 9-1 (Sept. 28, 2026), with the returned motion, Dkt. 9-2 (received Sept. 14, 2026)

Exhibit F. Declaration of Chief LightFoot, with PACER docket report, No. 2:25-cv-03107 (retrieved Oct. 22, 2026)

Exhibit G. U.S. Mail Notice of Docket Activity, No. 26-5379, Dkt. 3-2 (June 16, 2026) ("No mandate to issue")

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on October ____, 2026, as required by Supreme Court Rules 22.2 and 29, I served a copy of this application and its exhibits on each party required to be served, by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

1. Office of the Tennessee Attorney General and Reporter, P.O. Box 20207, Nashville, Tennessee 37202-0207, counsel for Respondents Tennessee Department of Children's Services and its Commissioner.
2. Mara L. Cunningham, Assistant Attorney General, at the same address.
3. Jordan K. Crews, Senior Assistant Attorney General, at the same address.
4. Lawrence Peter Rhea III, 3790 Jerusalem Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38109.
5. S. Rochelle McCrackin, counsel for Lawrence Peter Rhea III in the underlying Juvenile Court proceeding, 254 Court Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38103.
6. Twana Coleman, 3810 Jerusalem Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38109, a party in the court of appeals.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

_____

Name and Signature of Person Mailing Documents

Executed on October ____, 2026

**EXHIBIT F**

**DECLARATION OF CHIEF LIGHTFOOT**
(28 U.S.C. § 1746)

1. I am the Prime Minister and Sovereign Head of Government of the Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. I am not an attorney. I make this declaration from personal knowledge.

2. The Tribal Government was a Petitioner-Appellant in No. 26-5379 and an appellant in the related Sixth Circuit appeal, No. 26-5114, concerning the same child, J.L.R.

3. On October 22, 2026, I retrieved the docket report for No. 2:25-cv-03107 (W.D. Tenn.) from PACER; a copy is attached. It has no entry numbered 37; it runs from entry 36 (March 24, 2026) to entry 38 (April 7, 2026). On September 26,2026, I checked the public docket in No. 26-5114. Docket entries 1 through 4 did not appear. I had not asked that any entry be removed or sealed, and I received no notice of any motion or order removing or sealing them. I discovered that the dockets was missing and still have not been reposted.

4. On or about February 4, 2026 the Tribal Government's December 5, 2025 emergency filing in No. 2:25-cv-03107 appeared on PACER as terminated. On February 5, 2026, the Tribal Government filed what is now Dkt. 27 asking the court to restore it. The clerk entered Dkt. 27 on February 9, 2026. Until then the terminated filing had not been restored to the public docket. In February 2026, I was told by a case manager in the Clerk's office, who has assisted me on many occasions, the Six Circuit case manager Antoinette told me that the Tribal Government's filings in its Sixth Circuit appeal were to be filed through the Western District clerk, and that I could not mail them to the Sixth Circuit or register as a filer on PACER in either court. The Western District docket reflects such filings at Dkts. 34–36 (March 2026). Around July 2026, the Western District told me it could no longer accept filings for the Sixth Circuit and gave no reason beyond saying it had been doing us a favor. I do not raise this as a complaint. It is why the Tribal

Government's filing history is spread across two courts, and why it needs certified dockets to assemble an accurate record.

5. On September 16, 2026 I spoke with Antoinette, a case management specialist in the Clerk's office of the Sixth Circuit, about the "next friend" designation of Ms. Coleman in the caption of No. 26-5379. I was told that came from the eastern district in that caption and they could not change it.

6. The Tribal Government did not authorize the "next friend" designation. On June 16, 2026, Dkt 3-1. I submitted a Notice of Non-Authorization of Case Caption to the Clerk of the Sixth Circuit. On September 11, 2026, Ms. Coleman and I signed a Motion to Correct Clerical Error in Case Caption, which the Clerk received on September 14, 2026. By letter dated September 28, 2026, the Clerk returned it without ruling.

7. On 10/23/2026, I requested certified copies of the dockets in Nos. 26-5114, 26-5379, 2:25-cv-03107, 2:26-cv-02378, and 3:26-cv-00132 from the respective clerks. They are all Pending.

8. The Tribal Government is seeking counsel admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. University of Minnesota Indian Child Welfare Clinic, Yale Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic, Stanford Supreme Court Litigation Clinic.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 10-23-26,

Chief LightFoot
Prime Minister and Sovereign Head of Government
Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government

**Live Database**
**U.S. District Court - Eastern District of Tennessee (Knoxville)**
**CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 3:26-cv-00132-DCLC-DCP**

Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government et al v. Rhea et al
Assigned to: District Judge Clifton L Corker
Referred to: Magistrate Judge Debra C Poplin
Case in other court: USCA, Sixth Circuit, 26-05379
Cause: 28:2241 Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (federa

Date Filed: 03/19/2026
Date Terminated: 04/03/2026
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 530 Habeas Corpus (General)
Jurisdiction: Federal Question

**Petitioner**

**Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government**

represented by **Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government**
Chief LightFoot
Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government
13 S. Prescott Street
PO Box 111608
Memphs, TN 38111
PRO SE

**Petitioner**

**Twana Coleman**
*next friend*
J.L.R.

represented by **Twana Coleman**
13 S. Prescott Street
PO Box 111608
Memphis, TN 38111
PRO SE

V.

**Respondent**

**Lawrence P Rhea, III**

**Respondent**

**Tennessee Department of Children's Services**

**Respondent**

**Commissioner of DCS**

| Date Filed | # | Docket Text |
|---|---|---|
| 03/19/2026 | 1 | PETITION for Writ of Habeas Corpus ($5.00 filing fee paid, receipt attached), filed by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government, Twana Coleman. (Attachments: # 1 Other Filing Fee Receipt)(ABF) (Entered: 03/20/2026) |
| 03/20/2026 | 2 | Notice Regarding Requirement to Notify Court of Change of Address (c/m to Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government, Chief LightFoot, 13 S. Prescott Street, PO Box 111608, Memphs, TN 38111 and Twana Coleman, 13 S. Prescott Street, PO Box 111608, Memphis, TN 38111) (ABF) Modified on 3/20/2026 (CRV). (Entered: 03/20/2026) |
| 03/20/2026 | 3 | MOTION For Authorization To Register As A Non-Attorney Electronic Filer Pursuant To FRCP Rule 5(d)(3)(B) and This Court's CM/ECF Procedures by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government, Twana Coleman. (BJL) (Entered: 03/20/2026) |
| 04/03/2026 | 4 | ORDER: Accordingly, the Clerk is DIRECTED TO TRANSFER this action to the Western Division of the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee and to close this Courts file. Signed by District Judge Clifton L Corker on 4/3/2026. (BJL)*Mailed to Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government Chief LightFoot Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government 13 S. Prescott Street PO Box 111608 Memphs, TN 38111 and to Twana Coleman 13 S. Prescott Street PO Box 111608 Memphis, TN 38111 Modified on 4/3/2026 (BJL). (Entered: 04/03/2026) |
| 04/03/2026 | | Case transferred via CM/ECF to District of Western District Of Tennessee. (BJL) (Entered: 04/03/2026) |
| 04/06/2026 | | Case transferred from Tennessee Eastern has been opened in Western District of Tennessee as case 2:26-cv-02378, filed 04/06/2026 (BJL)*Mailed to Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government Chief LightFoot Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government 13 S. Prescott Street PO Box 111608 Memphs, TN 38111 and to Twana Coleman 13 S. Prescott Street PO Box 111608 Memphis, TN 38111 (Entered: 04/06/2026) |
| 04/23/2026 | 5 | NOTICE OF APPEAL as to 4 Order. by Twana Coleman. Filing fee not received. (BJL) (Entered: 04/23/2026) |
| 04/29/2026 | 6 | USCA Letter Re Case Number 26-5379 for 5 Notice of Appeal filed by Twana Coleman. (BJL) (Entered: 04/29/2026) |
| 05/21/2026 | 7 | USCA Appeal Fees received $ 605 receipt number 300008145 re 5 Notice of Appeal filed by Twana Coleman (Attachments: # 1 Other Court of Appeals Letter, # 2 Other Attachments to Court of Appeals Letter, # 3 Other Envelope)(ABF) (Entered: 05/21/2026) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 06/16/2026 | 8 | ORDER of USCA as to 5 Notice of Appeal filed by Twana Coleman. The appeal is DISMISSED for lack of jurisdiction. (BJL) (Entered: 06/16/2026) |
| 06/16/2026 | 9 | USCA JUDGMENT as to 5 Notice of Appeal filed by Twana Coleman. THIS MATTER came before the court upon consideration of appellate jurisdiction. IN CONSIDERATION THEREOF, it is ORDERED that the appeal is DISMISSED.(BJL) (Entered: 06/16/2026) |
| 08/14/2026 | 10 | Cover Letter and MANDATE of USCA as to 5 Notice of Appeal filed by Twana Coleman (BJL) (Entered: 08/14/2026) |

**PACER Service Center**

**Transaction Receipt**

10/21/2026 20:42:21

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| **PACER Login:** | georgemollison | **Client Code:** | |
| **Description:** | Docket Report | **Search Criteria:** | 3:26-cv-00132-DCLC-DCP |
| **Billable Pages:** | 2 | **Cost:** | 0.20 |

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE AT KNOXVILLE GUALE YAMASSEE TANASI TRIBAL GOVERNMENT and TWANA COLEMAN, Petitioners, v. LAWRENCE P. RHEA, TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES, and COMMISSIONER OF DCS , Respondents. No. 3:26-CV-132-DCLC-DCP ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ORDER This is a habeas corpus action filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 regarding custody of a child [Doc. 1]. Specifically, two parties, namely (1) the Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government, which purports to be an Indian tribe that both the United States Department of State and the Tennessee Department of State have authenticated but which is not listed on the Bureau of Indian Affairs' federally recognized tribes list, and (2) Twana Coleman, a member of the Guale Yamassee Tanasi tribe and the biological mother of an alleged "tribal child" named as "J.L.R.," whom "state actors" placed in custody of Respondent Rhea, seek to obtain custody of J.L.R. through this habeas corpus action [Id. at 7–8, 19–20, 21–23]. But Guale and Coleman1 acknowledge that Respondent Rhea has custody of J.L.R. in Shelby County, Tennessee, which lies within the Western District of Tennessee [Id. at 5]. As such, this Court does not have jurisdiction over custodial Respondent 1 As it is apparent that Guale and Coleman seek to challenge the current custody of J.L.R., they can only pursue this action on behalf of J.L.R. as her "next friend[s]," which is not an automatic occurrence. J.O.B. v. United States, No. 3:23-CV-217, 2024 WL 4011825, at *11–13 (S.D. Ohio Aug. 30, 2024). As such, the Court does not refer to Guale and

Coleman as petitioners or next friends in this opinion. Case 3:26-cv-00132-DCLC-DCP Document 4 Filed 04/03/26 Page 1 of 4 PageID #: 30 Rhea and therefore cannot grant Guale and Coleman habeas corpus relief under §2241, and the Court will transfer this action to the Western District, which is the correct venue.2 A writ of habeas corpus pursuant to § 2241 may be granted by "the district courts and any circuit judge within their respective jurisdictions" to, as is relevant here, any person "in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2241(a), (c)(3). The Supreme Court has interpreted § 2241(a) as requiring a district court to have jurisdiction over a habeas corpus petitioner's custodian, regardless of whether the petitioner is within the court's jurisdiction. Rumsfeld v. Padilla, 542 U.S. 426, 434–35 (2004) (holding that the proper respondent for a habeas corpus action "is 'the person' with the ability to produce the prisoner's body before the habeas court"). As set forth above, in the petition, Guale and Coleman seek to challenge Respondent Rhea's current custody of J.L.R. Thus, J.L.R. is the person that Guale and Coleman allege to be "in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States," and she is therefore the "real party in interest" herein. Cardin v. United States, 947 F.3d 373, 376 (6th Cir. 2020) (citing Whitmore v. Arkansas, 495 U.S. 149, 163–64 (1990)); Preiser v. Rodriguez, 411 U.S. 475, 484 (1973) (noting that "the essence of habeas corpus is an attack by a person in custody upon the legality of that custody, and that the traditional function of the writ is to secure release from illegal custody"). But Guale and Coleman acknowledge that Respondent Rhea has custody of J.L.R. in Shelby County, which lies within the Western District of Tennessee [Id. at 5, 21–23]. Guale and 2 In doing so, the Court makes no finding as to whether Guale and Coleman have appropriately sought habeas corpus relief under § 2241 for this child custody dispute and leaves this issue for the transferee Court to determine. 2 Case 3:26-cv-00132-DCLC-DCP Document 4 Filed 04/03/26 Page 2 of 4 PageID #: 31 Coleman also acknowledge that they previously filed an action regarding custody of J.L.R. with the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, which the Western District dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, a decision that Guale and Coleman are currently appealing with the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit [Id. at 5–7]. Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Gov't v. Tenn. Dep't of Children's Servs., No. 2:25-CV-3107-MSN-atc (W.D. Tenn. Feb. 6, 2026) (Doc. 26 (dismissing case for lack of subject matter jurisdiction); Docs. 28, 32 (notices of appeal)). Guale and Coleman nevertheless claim that this Court has jurisdiction over this habeas corpus action because (1) Guale and Coleman have filed judicial complaints against the Judges in the Western District who dismissed their case in that District and have also sued those Judges "in [a] companion civil rights action" they filed at the same time they filed the § 2241 petition, which they claim "creates an irreconcilable conflict of interest" requiring recusal of the Judges in the Western District; (2) § 2241(d) allows this Court to "exercise jurisdiction in a neutral forum" because "circumstances including bias and conflict make filing in the district of physical custody unjust"; and (3) the Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government "asserts jurisdiction over tribal members statewide" despite having its "principal offices in Shelby County" [Id. at 5–6]. However, Guale and Coleman do not cite any case to support their implied assertion that this Court has the authority to determine that Judges in the Western District must recuse themselves from this action. Moreover, § 2241(d) governs concurrent district court jurisdiction over habeas corpus actions filed by prisoners who are convicted and sentenced in one district but confined in another district, and nothing therein supports Guale and Coleman's argument that this Court has jurisdiction over this child custody action despite lacking jurisdiction over custodial Respondent Rhea, whom they state obtained and maintains custody over J.L.R. in Shelby County, Tennessee. 3 Case 3:26-cv-00132-DCLC-DCP Document 4 Filed 04/03/26 Page 3 of 4 PageID #: 32 Further, Guale and Coleman's assertions that (1) this Court may assume jurisdiction

over this habeas corpus action despite its lack of jurisdiction over custodial Respondent Rhea because Guale and Coleman allege that two of the eleven Judges in the Western District3 have conflicts of interest in this case and (2) the tribe asserts statewide jurisdiction over its members are unpersuasive, as they directly conflict with the Supreme Court's holding that a district court must have jurisdiction over the respondent who has custody of the habeas corpus petitioner. Rumsfeld, 542 U.S. at 434 35. The Court therefore concludes that the proper venue for this case is the Western Division of the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. 28 U.S.C. § 123(c)(2). A federal district court may transfer a civil action to any district or division where it could have been filed originally "in the interest of justice." 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a). Accordingly, the Clerk is DIRECTED TO TRANSFER this action to the Western Division of the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee and to close this Court's file. SO ORDERED. ENTER: s /C li ft onL . C or ke r United States District Judge 3https://www.tnwd.uscourts.gov/judges-info (last visited March 23, 2026). 4 Case 3:26-cv-00132-DCLC-DCP Document 4 Filed 04/03/26 Page 4 of 4 PageID #: 33

A Transmittal Communication from

Guale Yamassee Tribal Court

FILED

APR 23 2026

Clerk, U. S. District Court
Eastern District of Tennessee
At Knoxville

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
**FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**
**KNOXVILLE DIVISION**

**GUALE YAMASSEE TANASI TRIBAL GOVERNMENT,**
*a federally authenticated sovereign Indian tribal government;*
**Chief Lightfoot, and Twana Coleman,**
Petitioners/Appellants,

v.

**LAWRENCE PETER RHEA III, as immediate physical custodian; TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES; and COMMISSIONER OF TENNESSEE DCS, et al.,**
Defendants/Respondents

**Case No. 3:26-CV-132-DCLC-DCP**
**Companion Civil Rights Case: 3:26-CV-00131-KAC-JEM**
**Companion Appeal: Sixth Circuit No. 26-5114**

**NOTICE OF APPEAL**

**OF ORDER ENTERED APRIL 3, 2026**

**DIRECTING TRANSFER TO THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**

**PURSUANT TO FED. R. APP. P. 3 AND 4(a)(1)(A)**

*"For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us."*
*— Isaiah 33:22 (KJV)*

**NOTICE OF APPEAL**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Petitioners/Appellants, Prime Minister Chief Lightfoot/Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government and Twana Coleman hereby appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit from the **Order entered April 3, 2026** by Judge Clifton L. Corker (Document 4, Case No. 3:26-CV-132-DCLC-DCP), directing the transfer of this habeas

To Verify authenticity, of Document with this water mark Please call 1-844-926-2773 Ext (1), it must have Chief LightFoot Seal and Signature, from my desk. Or contact Yamassee Registry. (667) 465- 7232
Government # 1917

corpus action to the Western Division of the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee.

This Notice of Appeal is timely filed within thirty (30) days of the April 3, 2026 Order pursuant to **Fed. R. App. P. 4(a)(1)(A).** The order being appealed constitutes a final, immediately appealable order directing transfer of the entire action. *Nascimento v. Dummer,* 508 F.3d 905, 908 (9th Cir. 2007) (transfer orders are immediately appealable as final orders).

## NATURE OF THE ORDER BEING APPEALED

The April 3, 2026 Order transfers this habeas corpus action — filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 on behalf of enrolled tribal member child J.L.R. — to the Western District of Tennessee on venue grounds. Petitioners appeal this order on the following grounds, which will be fully briefed before the Sixth Circuit:

**1.** The Western District of Tennessee is not a neutral forum. The judges of that court — Judge Mark S. Norris and Magistrate Judge Annie T. Christoff — are named individual defendants in companion civil rights action Case No. 3:26-CV-00131-KAC-JEM (E.D. Tenn.), arising from the identical operative facts at issue in this habeas proceeding. Transfer to a court whose judges are named defendants in companion litigation arising from the same facts is not in the interest of justice under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a) and violates 28 U.S.C. § 455(a).

**2.** The transfer order failed to address the distinction between BIA federal recognition and ICWA applicability under 25 U.S.C. § 1903(8). The Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government holds U.S. Department of State Authentication No. 04010010-1 — federal authentication constituting recognition by the United States within the meaning of § 1903(8). No court has made the on-the-record tribal membership finding required by 25 C.F.R. § 23.107 before declining ICWA jurisdiction.

**3.** Enrolled tribal member child J.L.R. sustained a documented burn injury on January 10, 2026, while in state-supervised custody. No court has engaged the mandatory obligations triggered by 25 U.S.C. § 1922. Transfer back to the district that dismissed the companion case without addressing this injury perpetuates irreparable harm to an enrolled tribal child.

**4.** The interest of justice under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a) requires a neutral forum. The Eastern District, with Judge Crytzer presiding over the companion civil rights action, is the appropriate neutral forum. The Petitioners are simultaneously filing an Emergency Motion to Stay Transfer directly in the Sixth Circuit under Fed. R. App. P. 8(a)(2), as seeking a stay from the district court whose order is being appealed would be impracticable.

## NOTICE TO CLERK

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Government # 1917

Pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 3(d), the Clerk of this Court is respectfully requested to **promptly transmit** a copy of this Notice of Appeal to the Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Room 540, Potter Stewart U.S. Courthouse, 100 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3988, and to prepare and transmit the record on appeal consistent with Fed. R. App. P. 10.

No ruling or action by this Court is requested on this Notice of Appeal beyond the Clerk's ministerial duty to docket and transmit it. Petitioners are seeking a stay of the transfer order directly from the Sixth Circuit pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 8(a)(2).

All rights reserved. **U.C.C. 1-308 — All Rights Reserved Without Prejudice.**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Chief LightFoot, hereby certify that on 4/19, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Appeal was served upon all parties of record by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested.

United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
Room 540, Potter Stewart U.S. Courthouse
100 East Fifth Street | Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3988

Respectfully submitted,

**GUALE YAMASSEE TANASI TRIBAL GOVERNMENT**
By: Chief LightFoot
**Chief LightFoot**
Prime Minister and Sovereign Head of Government
Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government
U.S. Dept. of State Authentication No. 04010010-1
Tennessee S.O.S. No. 17-02066
13 S. Prescott St. | P.O. Box 111608 | Memphis, TN 38111
Tel: 1-844-926-2773 Ext. 101 | Yamasseechief58@icloud.com
Appearing Sui Juris / U.C.C. 1-308 — All Rights Reserved Without Prejudice
Date: 4/19/26

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Government # 1917

A Transmittal Communication from

Guale Yamassee Tribal Court

Twana Coleman

**Twana Coleman**
Co-Petitioner/Appellant, Tribal Member/Pro Se, Sui Juris
13 S. Prescott St. | P.O. Box 111608 | Memphis, TN 38111
U.C.C. 1-308 — All Rights Reserved Without Prejudice
Date: 4/19/26




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Part # 156294-

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**United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit**

**U.S. Mail Notice of Docket Activity**

The following transaction was filed on 06/16/2026.

**Case Name:** Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government, et al v. Lawrence Rhea, III, et al
**Case Number:** 26-5379

**Docket Text:**
ORDER filed: The appeal is therefore DISMISSED for lack of jurisdiction, decision not for publication. No mandate to issue. Alan E. Norris, Circuit Judge; John B. Nalbandian, Circuit Judge and Whitney D. Hermandorfer, Circuit Judge.

**The following documents(s) are associated with this transaction:**
Document Description: Order

**Notice will be sent to:**

Ms. Twana Coleman
3810 Jerusalem Street
Memphis, TN 38109

Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government
Prime Minister Chief Lightfoot
P.O. Box 111608
Memphis, TN 38111

**A copy of this notice will be issued to:**

Ms. LeAnna Wilson

If you view the you will be charged for 1 Pages $0.10

**General Docket**
**United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit**

**Court of Appeals Docket #:** 26-5379
**Nature of Suit:** 2530 Prisoner: Habeas Corpus
**Docketed:** 04/29/2026
**Termed:** 06/16/2026

Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government, et al v. Lawrence Rhea, III, et al
**Appeal From:** Eastern District of Tennessee at Knoxville
**Fee Status:** fee paid

**Case Type Information:**
**1)** Prisoner
**2)** Federal
**3)** Habeas Corpus

**Originating Court Information:**
**District:** 0649-3 : 3:26-cv-00132
**Trial Judge:** Clifton Leland Corker, U.S. District Judge
**Date Filed:** 03/19/2026
**Date Order/Judgment:** 04/03/2026
**Date NOA Filed:** 04/23/2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 04/29/2026 | 1 | Prisoner Case Docketed with CAP unnecessary. Notice filed by Appellants Ms. Twana Coleman and Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. Transcript needed: n. (ASM) [Entered: 04/29/2026 03:57 PM] |
| 05/21/2026 | 2 | Update fee status change to paid. (ASM) [Entered: 05/21/2026 04:26 PM] |
| 06/16/2026 | 3 | ORDER filed: The appeal is therefore DISMISSED for lack of jurisdiction (non-appealable order), decision not for publication. No mandate to issue. Alan E. Norris, Circuit Judge; John B. Nalbandian, Circuit Judge and Whitney D. Hermandorfer, Circuit Judge. (ASM) [Entered: 06/16/2026 12:20 PM] |
| 06/16/2026 | 4 | ENTRY OF JUDGMENT. (ASM) [Entered: 06/16/2026 12:22 PM] |
| 06/30/2026 | 5 | PETITION for en banc rehearing filed by Ms. Twana Coleman and Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. Certificate of Service: 06/24/2026. (BLH) [Entered: 06/30/2026 11:53 AM] |
| 08/06/2026 | 6 | ORDER filed denying petition for en banc rehearing [5] filed by Ms. Twana Coleman and Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. Alan E. Norris, John B. Nalbandian, and Whitney D. Hermandorfer, Circuit Judges. (BLH) [Entered: 08/06/2026 02:24 PM] |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 08/14/2026 | 7 | MANDATE ISSUED with no costs taxed. (ABH) [Entered: 08/14/2026 09:44 AM] |
| 09/14/2026 | 8 | Appellant MOTION filed by Ms. Twana Coleman and Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government to correct the caption. Certificate of service: 09/11/2026. (ASM) [Entered: 09/15/2026 02:29 PM] |
| 09/28/2026 | 9 | LETTER SENT to Ms. Twana Coleman and Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government, returning unfiled Petitioners' motion to correct clerical error in case caption. (ASM) [Entered: 09/28/2026 09:36 AM] |

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| **Billable Pages:** | 1 | **Cost:** | 0.10 |

# EXHIBIT A

Order of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit dismissing appeal

*No. 26-5379, Dkt. 3-1 (June 16, 2026)*

**NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PUBLICATION**

No. 26-5379

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

FILED
Jun 16, 2026
KELLY L. STEPHENS, Clerk

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| GUALE YAMASSEE TANASI TRIBAL GOVERNMENT; TWANA COLEMAN, next friend J.L.R., | ) | |
| Petitioners-Appellants, | ) | ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE |
| v. | ) | |
| LAWRENCE PETER RHEA III, et al., | ) | |
| Defendants-Appellees. | | |

ORDER

Before: NORRIS, NALBANDIAN, and HERMANDORFER, Circuit Judges.

This matter is before the court upon initial consideration of appellate jurisdiction.

The Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government and Twana Coleman filed a habeas corpus action regarding custody of a child in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee. On April 3, 2026, the district court determined that the Western District of Tennessee was the correct venue and transferred the action to that court. The Tribal Government and Coleman have appealed the transfer order.

This court lacks jurisdiction over this appeal. An order transferring an action from one district court to another is not a final or otherwise appealable order. *Miller v. Toyota Motor Corp.*, 554 F.3d 653, 655 (6th Cir. 2009); *see also Hadix v. Johnson*, 228 F.3d 662, 669 (6th Cir. 2000) ("An order granting or denying a transfer under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a) is interlocutory and not immediately appealable.").

The appeal is therefore **DISMISSED** for lack of jurisdiction.

ENTERED BY ORDER OF THE COURT

Kelly L. Stephens, Clerk

# EXHIBIT B

Judgment of the Sixth Circuit

*No. 26-5379, Dkt. 4 (June 16, 2026)*

# EXHIBIT C

Order of the Sixth Circuit denying petition for rehearing en banc

*No. 26-5379, Dkt. 6-1 (Aug. 6, 2026)*

No. 26-5379

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

FILED
Aug 6, 2026
KELLY L. STEPHENS, Clerk

GUALE YAMASSEE TANASI TRIBAL GOVERNMENT; TWANA COLEMAN, next friend J.L.R.,

Petitioners-Appellants,

v.

LAWRENCE PETER RHEA III, et al.,

Defendants-Appellees.

ORDER

**BEFORE:** NORRIS, NALBANDIAN, and HERMANDORFER, Circuit Judges.

The court received a petition for rehearing en banc. The original panel has reviewed the petition for rehearing and concludes that the issues raised in the petition were fully considered upon the original submission and decision of the case. The petition then was circulated to the full court. No judge has requested a vote on the suggestion for rehearing en banc.

Therefore, the petition is denied.

**ENTERED BY ORDER OF THE COURT**

Kelly L. Stephens, Clerk

# EXHIBIT D

Mandate and transmittal letter

*No. 26-5379, Dkt. 7 (Aug. 14, 2026)*

# EXHIBIT E

Clerk's letter returning Petitioners' Motion to Correct Clerical Error in Case Caption without ruling (Dkt. 9-1, Sept. 28, 2026), with the returned motion (Dkt. 9-2; received Sept. 14, 2026)

*No. 26-5379*

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS**
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

Kelly L. Stephens
Clerk

100 EAST FIFTH STREET, ROOM 540
POTTER STEWART U.S. COURTHOUSE
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202-3988

Tel. (513) 564-7000
www.ca6.uscourts.gov

Filed: September 28, 2026

Ms. Twana Coleman
3810 Jerusalem Street
Memphis, TN 38109

Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government
Prime Minister Chief Lightfoot
P.O. Box 111608
Memphis, TN 38111

Re: Case No. 26-5379
*Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government, et al v. Lawrence Rhea, III, et al*
Originating Case No. 3:26-cv-00132

Dear Ms. Coleman and Prime Minister Chief Lightfoot,

The court received the Petitioners' Motion to Correct Clerical Error in Case Caption on September 14, 2026. On August 6, 2026, an order was filed denying the petition for en banc rehearing, the case was mandated and closed on August 14, 2026. Enclosed please find the returned motion without ruling. No further activity will occur in this case.

Sincerely,

s/Kelly Stephens
Case Management Specialist: Antoinette
Direct Dial No. 513-564-7015

**GUALE YAMASSEE TANASI TRIBAL GOVERNMENT**
*U.S. Department of State Authentication No. 04010010-1 | Tennessee Secretary of State Authentication No. 17-02066*
13 S. Prescott St. | P.O. Box 111608 | Memphis, TN 38111 | yamasseechief58@icloud.com | 202-569-4237

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**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS**

**FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT**

GUALE YAMASSEE TANASI TRIBAL GOVERNMENT;

TWANA COLEMAN,

Petitioners-Appellants,

v.

LAWRENCE PETER RHEA, III; TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES; et al.,

Respondents-Appellees.

**No. 26-5379**

**Originating Case No. 3:26-cv-00132**

## PETITIONERS' MOTION TO CORRECT CLERICAL ERROR IN CASE CAPTION

**(Does Not Seek to Reopen the Judgment or Disturb the Mandate)**

Petitioners Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government ("GYTTG") and Twana Coleman, appearing Sui Juris, respectfully move this Court to correct a clerical error in the case caption as docketed, and state as follows.

### I. NATURE OF THIS MOTION

This is not a motion for reconsideration, a petition for rehearing, or any request touching the merits of this Court's June 16, 2026 disposition or the mandate issued August 14, 2026. Petitioners seek only correction of the docketed case caption to conform to the designation Petitioners actually filed. Courts possess inherent authority to correct their own records to "speak the truth," a principle codified for district courts at Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(a) and recognized as surviving the issuance of a mandate precisely because clerical correction does not disturb the underlying judgment. See *Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co. v. City of Fort Pierre, S.D.*, 366 F.2d 96, 100 (8th Cir. 1966).

**II. THE ERROR**

1. Petitioners' filings below identified Ms. Coleman as a co-Petitioner and enrolled Tribal member asserting independent standing, with J.L.R. represented through GYTTG's own tribal protective authority under the Indian Child Welfare Act.

2. The docketed caption in this matter instead reads "Twana Coleman, next friend J.L.R." — a designation Petitioners did not submit, did not request, and do not consent to.

3. Petitioners preserved this objection contemporaneously by Notice of Non-Authorization of Case Caption filed with the Clerk, prior to filing this Motion.

**III. APPLICABLE CODES AND COURT RULES**

- **Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(a)** — authority to correct a clerical mistake in a record arising from oversight, applicable here through the courts' recognized inherent authority to correct their own appellate records.

- **Fed. R. App. P. 27** — governs the form, content, and procedure for motions filed in the courts of appeals, including this one.

- **Fed. R. App. P. 10(e)** — authority to correct or modify the record on appeal when it fails to reflect what occurred below.

- **25 U.S.C. § 1903(4), (9)** — ICWA's statutory definitions bearing on who holds independent standing as opposed to a purely derivative "next friend" role.

- **25 U.S.C. § 1911(c)** — the Indian custodian's and Tribe's independent statutory right to intervene, which the "next friend" mischaracterization obscures.

- **Whitmore v. Arkansas**, 495 U.S. 149, 163–64 (1990) — defining "next friend" as a term of art inapplicable to a party asserting an independent claim.

- **Mullane v. Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co.**, 339 U.S. 306, 314 (1950) — due process requires that the record accurately reflect a party's actual status.

## IV. REQUESTED RELIEF

Petitioners respectfully request that the Court direct the Clerk to correct the docketed caption in Case No. 26-5379 to reflect Ms. Coleman's designation as an individual co-Petitioner and enrolled Tribal member, consistent with Petitioners' original filings, and to reflect J.L.R.'s representation through GYTTG's tribal protective authority under ICWA. Petitioners request this correction be reflected in the Court's records going forward, including on any further transmission of the record to the Supreme Court of the United States in connection with a forthcoming petition for a writ of certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief LightFoot

Prime Minister and Sovereign Head of Government

Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government

yamasseechief58@icloud.com | 202-569-4237

Twana Coleman

Pro Se Sui Juris | Tribal Member | Mother of J.L.R.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 11 day of Sept, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Motion was filed via the Court's CM/ECF system, which will send electronic notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

---

*"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn." — Isaiah 54:17 (KJV)*

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# EXHIBIT F

Declaration of Chief LightFoot, with PACER docket report, No. 2:25-cv-03107 (W.D. Tenn.), retrieved Oct. 22, 2026

**U.S. District Court**
**Western District of Tennessee (Memphis)**
**CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 2:25-cv-03107-MSN-atc**

Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government v. Tennessee Department of Children's Services et al
Assigned to: Judge Mark S. Norris
Referred to: Magistrate Judge Annie T. Christoff
Related Case: 2:26-cv-02378-MSN-atc
Case in other court: Sixth Circuit, 26-05114
Cause: 25:1901 Indian Child Welfare Act

Date Filed: 12/05/2025
Date Terminated: 02/06/2026
Jury Demand: Plaintiff
Nature of Suit: 440 Civil Rights: Other
Jurisdiction: Federal Question

**Petitioner**

**Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government**
*for Twana Coleman and minor J.R.*

represented by **Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government**
P.O. Box 111608
13th Prescott Street
Memphis, TN 38111
PRO SE

V.

**Respondent**

**Tennessee Department of Children's Services**

represented by **Kirk Stewart**
One Commerce Square
40 S. Main St. 6th Floor
Memphis, TN 38103
Email: kirk.stewart@tn.gov
*LEAD ATTORNEY*
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Mara Lynne Cunningham**
TENNESSEE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
P.O. Box 20207
Nashville, TN 37202-0207
615-741-1481
Email: mara.cunningham@ag.tn.gov
*LEAD ATTORNEY*
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Vivian Pyatt**
One Commerce Square
40 S. Main St. 6th Floor
Memphis, TN 38103
*LEAD ATTORNEY*

*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Respondent**
**Lawrence Peter Rhea III**

represented by **Shyretta Rochelle McCrackin**
FIDELITY LAW
254 Court Avenue
505
Memphis, TN 38103
901-589-6160
Email:
attorneymccrackin@fidelitylaw.world
*LEAD ATTORNEY*
*ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

**Respondent**
**Shelby County Juvenile Court**
**Respondent**
**CASA**
**Respondent**
**GAL**
**Respondent**
**Foster Care**
**Respondent**
**All Associated State Officers and Contractors**

| Date Filed | # | Docket Text |
|---|---|---|
| 12/05/2025 | 1 | Judge Mark S. Norris and Magistrate Judge Annie T. Christoff added. (cmm) (Entered: 12/05/2025) |
| 12/05/2025 | 2 | NOTICE OF REMOVAL, EMERGENCY TRO, EMERGENCY STAY, FEDERAL TRIBAL COMPLAINT, VENUE MOTION RESOLUTION, EMERGENCY TRIBAL INTERVENTION, TRIBAL EMERGENCY REMOVAL, ADDENDUM OF CIVIL ACTION by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government from Juvenile Court, case number GG1815., filed by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (Attachments: # 1 Introduction of Attorney in Fact, # 2 Civil Cover Sheet)(cmm) (Additional attachment(s) added on 12/5/2025: # 3 Exhibit) (cmm). (Additional attachment(s) added on 12/5/2025: # 4 NEF) (cmm). (Entered: 12/05/2025) |
| 12/05/2025 | 3 | NOTICE of Filing Exhibits in Support of Unified Federal Tribal Emergency Filing by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (cmm) (Entered: 12/05/2025) |
| 12/05/2025 | 4 | MOTION for Leave to File Electronic Media Exhibits by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (cmm) (Entered: 12/05/2025) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12/05/2025 | 5 | Notice of Removal Filing fee: $ 405.00, receipt number 200007945. (cmm) (Entered: 12/05/2025) |
| 12/05/2025 | 6 | ATTACHMENT Certification of Documents from State Court to 2 Notice of Removal,, by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit, # 2 Exhibit, # 3 Exhibit, # 4 Exhibit, # 5 Exhibit, # 6 Exhibit, # 7 Exhibit, # 8 Exhibit, # 9 Exhibit, # 10 Exhibit, # 11 Exhibit, # 12 Exhibit, # 13 Exhibit, # 14 Exhibit, # 15 Exhibit, # 16 Exhibit, # 17 Exhibit, # 18 Exhibit, # 19 Exhibit, # 20 Exhibit, # 21 Exhibit, # 22 Exhibit, # 23 Exhibit, # 24 Exhibit, # 25 Exhibit, # 26 Exhibit)(cmm) (Entered: 12/08/2025) |
| 12/11/2025 | 7 | NOTICE OF FEDERAL TREATY INTEREST by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government (jae) (Entered: 12/11/2025) |
| 12/12/2025 | 8 | Supplemental Certificate of Service by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government (mf) (Entered: 12/12/2025) |
| 12/16/2025 | 9 | EMERGENCY MOTION for Immediae Relief and Protective Intervention by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (Attachments: # 1 Affidavit of facts in support of motion)(jae) (Entered: 12/16/2025) |
| 12/18/2025 | 10 | REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR DENIAL OF INJUNCTIVE RELIEF 2 AND FOR SUA SPONTE REMAND TO STATE COURT OR DISMISSAL AND ORDER REGARDING THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW AND DENYING PENDING MOTION. Objections to R&R due by 01/02/2026. Signed by Magistrate Judge Annie T. Christoff on 12/18/2025. (jad) (Entered: 12/18/2025) |
| 12/23/2025 | 11 | MOTION to Seal *Proposed Order Submitted* by Tennessee Department of Children's Services. (Attachments: # 1 Memorandum)(Cunningham, Mara) (Entered: 12/23/2025) |
| 12/29/2025 | 12 | Mail Returned as Undeliverable. Mail sent to Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribsl Government. (jae) (Entered: 12/30/2025) |
| 12/30/2025 | 13 | NOTICE of Power of Attorney by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government (jae) (Entered: 12/30/2025) |
| 12/30/2025 | 14 | RESPONSE in Opposition re 11 MOTION to Seal *Proposed Order Submitted* filed by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (jae) (Entered: 12/30/2025) |
| 12/30/2025 | 15 | OBJECTION to 10 Report and Recommendations by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit)(jae) (Entered: 12/30/2025) |
| 12/30/2025 | 16 | RESERVATION OF RIGHTS by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | Government (jae) (Entered: 12/30/2025) |
| 12/30/2025 | 17 | Notice of Correction to Minor Child's Information. (jae) (Entered: 12/30/2025) |
| 01/12/2026 | 18 | NOTICE of Newly Discovered information and preservation of evidence by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government (jae) (Entered: 01/12/2026) |
| 01/29/2026 | 19 | Emergency MOTION Ascertain Jurisdictional Status *Proposed Order Submitted* by Tennessee Department of Children's Services. (Attachments: # 1 Memorandum, # 2 Exhibit Adjudicatory Order (Redacted))(Cunningham, Mara) (Entered: 01/29/2026) |
| 01/29/2026 | 20 | ORDER GRANTING 11 DEFENDANT TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES'S MOTION TO SEAL. Signed by Judge Mark S. Norris on 1/29/26. (Norris, Mark) (Entered: 01/29/2026) |
| 02/03/2026 | 21 | Emergency Tribal Court Order with Petition For Federal Recognition and Enforcement by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government (jae) (Entered: 02/03/2026) |
| 02/03/2026 | 22 | MOTION to Compel District Court to Conduct Mandatory De Novo Review of Magistrate's Report and Recommendation and to rule on December 5, 2025 emergency TRO within 7 days by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (jae) (Entered: 02/03/2026) |
| 02/03/2026 | 23 | EMERGENY MOTION to Intervene and unseal the record and vacate sealing order for violation of due process by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (jae) (Entered: 02/03/2026) |
| 02/03/2026 | 24 | EMERENCY MOTION to Vacate sealing order as discriminatory, unconstitutional and violaion of tribal sovereignty by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (jae) (Entered: 02/03/2026) |
| 02/03/2026 | 25 | EMEGENCY MOTION for Preliminary Injunction by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (jae) (Entered: 02/03/2026) |
| 02/05/2026 | 27 | Emergency MOTION to Correct False Party Designations, Restore Improperly Terminated Filing, and Ensure Public Access to Evidence of ICWA Violations by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit, # 2 Exhibit, # 3 Exhibit, # 4 Exhibit)(mf) (Entered: 02/09/2026) |
| 02/06/2026 | 26 | ORDER ADOPTING REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION, REMANDING TO STATE COURT, AND DIRECTING CLERK TO CLOSE CASE. Signed by Judge Mark S. Norris on 2/6/26. (Norris, Mark) (Entered: 02/06/2026) |
| 02/10/2026 | 28 | NOTICE OF APPEAL as to 26 Order on Report and Recommendations, |

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| | | Order on Motion for Miscellaneous Relief, Order on Motion to Compel, Order on Motion to Intervene, Order on Motion to Vacate, Order on Motion for Preliminary Injunction and MOTION to Stay Pending Appeal Pursuant to Fed.R.APP.P R (a)(1):R(A)(2) by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (mf) (Entered: 02/11/2026) |
| 02/13/2026 | 29 | USCA Case Number 26-5114 for 28 Notice of Appeal, filed by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. Civil Case Docketed. Notice filed by Appellant Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. Transcript needed (cmm) (Entered: 02/13/2026) |
| 02/27/2026 | 30 | Appeal Filing fee: $ 605.00, receipt number 200008463 (cmm) (Entered: 02/27/2026) |
| 02/27/2026 | 31 | ORDER DENYING 27 PETITIONERS' EMERGENCY MOTION AS MOOT. Signed by Judge Mark S. Norris on 2/27/26. (Norris, Mark) (Entered: 02/27/2026) |
| 03/06/2026 | 32 | CORRECTION ON NOTICE OF APPEAL by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit)(jae) (Entered: 03/09/2026) |
| 03/12/2026 | 33 | NOTICE of Coordinated filing package and transmittal cover sheet by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. Styled for 6th Circuit COA. (jae) (Entered: 03/12/2026) |
| 03/12/2026 | 34 | *document styled for 6th Circuit COA* MOTION to Strike void post-remand order and supplemental notice of false date representation in district court's February 27, 2026 order by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit A, # 2 Exhibit B)(jae) (Entered: 03/12/2026) |
| 03/24/2026 | 35 | Appellant's MOTION to Unseal Tribal Government Filings Illegally Sealed Without Notice, Hearing, or Findings in Violation of FRAP 27, Shane Group, and Due Process by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government. (mf) (Entered: 03/24/2026) |
| 03/24/2026 | 36 | Supplemental NOTICE of Companion Civil Rights Action and Formal Demand for Removal of Conflicted Counsel from All Proceedings in this Appeal by Guale Yamassee Tanasi Tribal Government (mf) (Entered: 03/24/2026) |
| 04/07/2026 | 38 | NOTICE by Tennessee Department of Children's Services (Cunningham, Mara) (Entered: 04/07/2026) |
| 06/24/2026 | 39 | ORDER filed granting motion to withdraw Allen Martin as counsel for Tennessee Department of Children's Services 12 . (mf) (Entered: 06/25/2026) |

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# INDEX OF EXHIBITS

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| **Exhibit A** | Order of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit dismissing appeal, No. 26-5379, Dkt. 3-1 (June 16, 2026) |
| **Exhibit B** | Judgment of the Sixth Circuit, No. 26-5379, Dkt. 4 (June 16, 2026) |
| **Exhibit C** | Order of the Sixth Circuit denying petition for rehearing en banc, No. 26-5379, Dkt. 6-1 (Aug. 6, 2026) |
| **Exhibit D** | Mandate and transmittal letter, No. 26-5379, Dkt. 7 (Aug. 14, 2026) |
| **Exhibit E** | Clerk's letter returning Petitioners' Motion to Correct Clerical Error in Case Caption without ruling (Dkt. 9-1, Sept. 28, 2026), with the returned motion (Dkt. 9-2; received Sept. 14, 2026), No. 26-5379 |
| **Exhibit F** | Declaration of Chief LightFoot, with PACER docket report, No. 2:25-cv-03107 (W.D. Tenn.), retrieved Oct. 22, 2026 |
| **Exhibit G** | U.S. Mail Notice of Docket Activity ("No mandate to issue"), No. 26-5379, Dkt. 3-2 (June 16, 2026) |