

United States Court of Appeals  
for the Fifth Circuit

United States Court of Appeals  
Fifth Circuit

**FILED**

January 13, 2026

Lyle W. Cayce  
Clerk

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No. 25-10671  
Summary Calendar

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *ex rel*; STATE OF TEXAS, *ex rel*;  
RUTH TORRES,

*Plaintiff—Appellant,*

*versus*

GREGORY WAYNE ABBOTT, *In Official Capacity, Texas Governor*;  
WARREN KENNETH PAXTON, JR., *In Official Capacity Texas Attorney  
General*; BONNIE LEE GOLDSTEIN, *In Official Capacity 44th District  
Court Judge Dallas*; NATHAN L. HECHT, *In Official Capacity Chief  
Justice Texas Supreme Court*; JIMMY BLACKLOCK, *In Official Capacity  
Place 2 Texas Supreme Court Justice*; ET AL.,

*Defendants—Appellees.*

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Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Northern District of Texas  
USDC No. 3:24-CV-1842

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Before RICHMAN, DUNCAN, and DOUGLAS, *Circuit Judges*.

PER CURIAM:\*

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\* This opinion is not designated for publication. *See* 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.

No. 25-10671

Ruth Torres, a Texas resident proceeding pro se, filed a civil action alleging that the defendants used state agencies, Texas's judicial system, and state and municipal government funds and resources to conceal a conspiracy and to retaliate against her. After finding that Torres failed to provide a short and plain statement of her claims showing that she was entitled to relief as required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), the district court dismissed the complaint for failure to state a claim upon which relief could be granted.

On appeal, Torres argues that the district court's determination that her complaint failed to comply with Rule 8(a) was erroneous. Torres also requests the appointment of counsel. Although pro se filings are afforded liberal construction, even pro se litigants must brief arguments in order to preserve them. *Yohey v. Collins*, 985 F.2d 222, 225 (5th Cir. 1993). By failing to address or identify any error in the district court's determination that she failed to provide a short and plain statement of her claims, Torres has abandoned any possible challenge to the determination that she failed to comply with Rule 8(a). *See Brinkmann v. Dallas Cnty. Deputy Sheriff Abner*, 813 F.2d 744, 748 (5th Cir. 1987).

Because the report of the magistrate judge provided notice of the defects in the complaint, and Torres had an opportunity to respond and cure the defects within the time for objecting to the report, there was no error in dismissing the complaint with prejudice without providing an opportunity to amend. *See Brown v. Taylor*, 829 F.3d 365, 370 (5th Cir. 2016); *Lozano v. Ocwen Fed. Bank, FSB*, 489 F.3d 636, 642-43 (5th Cir. 2007).

In light of the foregoing, the judgment of the district court is AFFIRMED. Torres's motions for hearing en banc, recusal, change of venue, and appointment of counsel are DENIED.