

FILED
United States Court of Appeals
Tenth Circuit

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

March 3, 2026

Christopher M. Wolpert
Clerk of Court

In re: PABLO-ROCCO FORENZA,

No. 25-1445

Petitioner.

ORDER

Before **CARSON**, **ROSSMAN**, and **FEDERICO**, Circuit Judges.

Pablo-Rocco Forenza, proceeding pro se, filed a petition for writ of prohibition. He requests this court issue a writ to “halt[] all proceedings in [Mesa County] Case No. 2023T000125,” “declar[e] that Mesa County Court is divested of jurisdiction,” and “prohibit[] Respondents from proceeding.” Pet. at 3.

“A writ of prohibition is a drastic and extraordinary remedy which should be granted only when the petitioner has shown his right to the writ to be clear and undisputable and that the actions of the court were a clear abuse of discretion.” *Univ. of Tex. at Austin v. Vratil*, 96 F.3d 1337, 1339 (10th Cir. 1996) (brackets and internal quotation marks omitted). “The standards for reviewing petitions for writs of prohibition are similar to the standards for reviewing petitions for writs of mandamus.” *In re McCarthy*, 368 F.3d 1266, 1268 (10th Cir. 2004). And both mandamus and prohibition are writs that are used by an appellate court to confine an “inferior court” to the lawful exercise of its prescribed jurisdiction. *Ex parte Republic of Peru*, 318 U.S. 578, 583 (1943).

Mr. Forenza seeks a writ of prohibition directed at a Colorado state court, a state clerk of court, a state judge, a state district attorney, and a state trooper. But a state court is not an “inferior court” within the federal court system, and thus, federal courts lack the power to issue a writ of mandamus to a state court. *See Knox v. Bland*, 632 F.3d 1290, 1292 (10th Cir. 2011). The same considerations that prevent us from issuing a writ of mandamus to a state court generally apply to a writ of prohibition. *See, e.g., Siler v. Storey*, 587 F. Supp. 986, 987 (N.D. Tex. 1984) (a writ of prohibition “is not an appropriate remedy to control jurisdiction of . . . nonsubordinate courts”). To the extent Mr. Forenza seeks a writ of prohibition directed at a Colorado court or its judicial officers, “we have no authority to issue such a writ to direct state courts or their judicial officers in the performance of their duties,” *Knox*, 632 F.3d at 1292 (brackets and internal quotation marks omitted). He has likewise not shown we have the authority to issue a writ directed at the other individual respondents.

Accordingly, we deny Mr. Forenza’s petition for a writ of prohibition.

Entered for the Court

Per Curiam