

United States Court of Appeals

FIFTH CIRCUIT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

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CLERK

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July 10, 2026

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No. 26-40316 Blue Cross Blue Shield of TX v. HaloMD
USDC No. 5:25-CV-132

Dear Counsel,

We have docketed the appeal referenced above. Please use the assigned case number for all future inquiries.

Briefing Notice: The record is now complete for the purposes of this appeal, as outlined in Fed. R. App. P. 12. The appellant's brief and record excerpts must be submitted within 40 days of the date listed above on August 19, 2026 in accordance with Fed. R. App. P. & 5th Cir. R. 28, 30, and 31. Please review 5th Cir. R. 30.1.2 and 5th Cir. R. 31.1 to determine if you are required to file electronic copies of the brief and record excerpts. If required, electronic copies must be in Portable Document Format (PDF). You may access our briefing checklist at: www.ca5.uscourts.gov/docs/brchk.

Paper Copies of Briefs Not Required unless directed by the Clerk.
The court has waived requirement to file paper copies of briefs or

record excerpts. Should paper copies be required, the clerk will notify you and instruct the number of copies to file.

Brief Covers: The case captions on brief covers must match the case captions on the enclosed title caption sheets exactly. Any modifications to the captions must be corrected before the brief is submitted to the court.

Record Excerpts: As specified in 5th Cir. R. 30.1.7(c), an appellant must file record excerpts. The electronic PDF version of the record excerpts should include pages representing the "tabs" identified in the document index. If you are notified to provide paper copies of the excerpts, please ensure that copies filed contain actual physical tabs that extend beyond the edge of the document, to facilitate easy identification and review.

Policy on Extensions: The court grants extensions sparingly, following the criteria outlined in 5th Cir. R. 31.4. If you request an extension, you must notify opposing counsel and inform us whether the extension is opposed or unopposed. Note that, except in extraordinary circumstances, the maximum extension for filing briefs is 30 days in criminal cases and 40 days in civil cases.

Reply Brief: Cases are generally not submitted to the court until all briefs are filed, except in criminal appeals. Reply briefs must be filed within the 21-day period specified in Fed. R. App. P. 31(a)(1). Please refer to 5th Cir. R. 31.1 to determine if electronic copies of the reply brief are required, and for guidance on format.

Dismissal of Appeals: Please be aware that the clerk may dismiss appeals without notice if briefs are not filed on time, or if other rules are not followed.

Appearance Form: If you have not yet electronically filed a "Form for Appearance of Counsel," please do so within 14 days of this notice. Ensure that you name each party you represent, as required by Fed. R. App. P. and 5th Cir. R. 12. You may access the form at: www.ca5.uscourts.gov/appearanceform.

Brief Template: The clerk's office provides brief templates and a tool to check briefs for potential deficiencies before docketing. To access these resources, log in to CM/ECF and select 'Brief Template' (Counsel Only) or 'PDF Check Document' from the Utilities menu or the "Attorney Toolbox".

Electronic Record on Appeal (EROA): We permit you to download all or part of the electronic record on appeal (EROA) after this is approved by the U.S. District Court. You will receive a notice when access to the EROA is available. Counsel must be approved for electronic filing and be listed as an attorney of record in the case before access will be granted. Instructions for accessing and downloading the EROA are available on our site at www.ca5.uscourts.gov/docs/erodownload.

Please note that sealed documents, except for the presentence investigation report in criminal appeals, will not be included in the EROA. You must file a motion in our court for access to sealed

documents, which will be provided by the district court only upon the filing and granting of a motion by our court.

Video/Audio Exhibits: If this record contains exhibits, such as dash cam or body cam videos, that need to be submitted to the court, please provide them to the District Court in MP4 format for submission to our court.

Citation Guidelines: Pursuant to 5th Cir. R. 28.2.2, use the following citation format:

- For single record cases, use "ROA." followed by the page number (e.g., "ROA.123").
- For multiple record cases, cite "ROA." followed by the Fifth Circuit appellate case number, followed by the page of the record (e.g., "ROA.13-12345.123").
- Each citation must end with a period (.) or semicolon (;).

Pro Se Litigants: If you are a pro se litigant, you may request the record from the district court to prepare your brief. Those proceeding in forma pauperis may receive the record without payment of shipping costs. If you wish to receive exhibits, you must specifically request them. Upon receiving the record, please review it within 14 days for any missing or incomplete items. If you need to request a supplemental record or order transcripts, do so promptly. The court will not grant extensions of time to file your brief due to a delay in checking the record.

Reminder Regarding Sealed Documents: Our court presumes the public has a right to court records, and request to seal pleadings, record excerpts, or other documents must be justified with particularity. Simply stating that the originating court sealed the matter is insufficient. Counsel is responsible for justifying a request to file under seal, as well as for notifying the court when sealing is no longer necessary. An unopposed motion to seal does not relieve counsel of the obligation to justify the motion.

Signing Pleadings: While our rules do not directly regulate the process by which a party or an attorney produces the filing—such as writing it personally with no assistance, delegating part of its preparation to another, or using generative artificial intelligence, the signature is an attestation that the signer has reviewed the filing and is responsible for the accuracy of its contents.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

LYLE W. CAYCE, Clerk

By: /s/ Dantrell Johnson
Dantrell Johnson, Deputy Clerk
504-310-7689

Enclosure(s)

cc w/encl:
Mr. William David Carter Sr.

Mr. Jonah Retzinger
Mr. Michael Alan Swartzendruber

Case No. 26-40316

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, a Division of Health Care
Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company,

Plaintiff - Appellant

v.

HaloMD, L.L.C.; Alla LaRoque; Scott LaRoque,

Defendants - Appellees