Buchanan v. Pearson Doc. 8

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

RICK LEE BUCHANAN,)	
Petitioner,)	
v.)	CIV 13-397-RAW-KEW
CHARLES PEARSON, Sheriff,)	
Respondent.)	

OPINION AND ORDER

Petitioner, an inmate in the custody of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections who is incarcerated in the Muskogee County Jail in Muskogee, Oklahoma, has filed this petition for a writ of habeas corpus, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. He is challenging his conviction and sentence in Muskogee County District Court Case No. CF-2010-1159 for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. Petitioner admits in his rambling petition, however, that he has not exhausted the state court remedies for his habeas claims, alleging his attorney failed to file an appeal after he entered a guilty plea, and he was not advised of the availability of post-conviction relief. (Docket No. 1 at 1).

"A threshold question that must be addressed in every habeas case is that of exhaustion," *Harris v. Champion*, 15 F.3d 1538, 1554 (10th Cir. 1994). The court must dismiss a state prisoner's habeas petition if he has not exhausted the available state court remedies as to his federal claims. *See Coleman v. Thompson*, 501 U.S. 722, 731 (1991). Furthermore, the court may dismiss a habeas petition *sua sponte*, when the petitioner's failure to exhaust is clear on the face of the petition. *Allen v. Zavaras*, 568 F.3d 1197, 1202-03 (10th Cir. 2009).

In federal habeas corpus actions, the petitioner bears the burden of showing he has

exhausted his state court remedies as required by 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b). See Clonce v.

Presley, 640 F.2d 271, 273 (10th Cir. 1981); Bond v. Oklahoma, 546 F.2d 1369, 1377 (10th

Cir. 1976). To satisfy the exhaustion requirement, a claim must be presented to the State's

highest court through a direct appeal or a post-conviction proceeding. Dever v. Kansas State

Penitentiary, 36 F.3d 1531, 1534 (10th Cir. 1994). Under the doctrine of comity, a federal

court should defer action on claims properly within its jurisdiction until a state court with

concurrent power has had an opportunity to consider the matter. Rose v. Lundy, 455 U.S.

509, 518-19 (1982).

ACCORDINGLY, petitioner is directed to show cause in writing within fourteen (14)

days why this action should not be dismissed for his failure to exhaust state court remedies,

as required by 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b). Failure to show cause as directed will result in dismissal

of this action.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 8th day of October 2013.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2013.

Ronald A. White

United States District Judge

La. White

Eastern District of Oklahoma

2