

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CIVIL MINUTES – GENERAL

Case No.: 2:20-11347 CAS (ADS) Date: April 1, 2021

Title: Edward Eugene Banks v. Josie Gastelo

Present: The Honorable Autumn D. Spaeth, United States Magistrate Judge

Kristee Hopkins
Deputy Clerk

None Reported
Court Reporter / Recorder

Attorney(s) Present for Petitioner(s):
None Present

Attorney(s) Present for Respondent(s):
None Present

**Proceedings: (IN CHAMBERS) ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY THE
PETITION SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED DUE TO
PENDING STATE APPEAL**

I. INTRODUCTION

Pending before the Court is a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus by a Person in State Custody (“Petition”), filed by Petitioner Edward Eugene Banks (“Petitioner”), a California state prisoner. [Dkt. No. 1].¹ The Court’s review reveals that the Petition is subject to dismissal because an appeal is currently pending before the California Court of Appeal which may moot the instant federal Petition.

The Court will not make a final determination regarding whether the federal Petition should be dismissed, however, without giving Petitioner an opportunity to address this issue. For the reasons discussed below, Petitioner is **ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE** in writing **by April 22, 2021** why the instant Petition should not be dismissed.

¹ Based on Plaintiff’s filing fee payment, the February 22, 2021 Order to Show Cause Re: Dismissal [Dkt. No. 5] is hereby discharged.

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II. PENDING STATE APPEAL MAY REQUIRE DISMISSAL OF PETITION

A. Background

The instant federal habeas Petition indicates that Petitioner filed an appeal that is currently pending before the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District. [Dkt. No. 1, p. 18].² That appeal is not yet complete as no decision has been issued to date. California Appellate Courts Case Information, 2nd Appellate District, Case No. B306135, <https://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov>.

B. Pending State Appeal

The instant federal Petition may be subject to dismissal due to Petitioner’s pending state appeal. A pending state appeal renders a federal habeas petition subject to dismissal even if the claim raised in the federal petition is different from the issue raised in a pending state appeal. See Sherwood v. Tomkins, 716 F.2d 632, 634 (9th Cir. 1983) (“When . . . an appeal of a state criminal conviction is pending, a would-be habeas corpus petitioner must await the outcome of his appeal before his state remedies are exhausted, even where the issue to be challenged . . . has been finally settled in the state courts.”). This is because, “even if the federal constitutional question raised by the habeas corpus petitioner cannot be resolved in a pending state appeal, that appeal may result in the reversal of the petitioner’s conviction on some other ground, thereby mooting the federal question.” Id. at 634 (internal citation omitted).

A federal court will not intervene in a pending state criminal proceeding absent extraordinary circumstances involving great and immediate danger of irreparable harm. See Younger v. Harris, 401 U.S. 37, 45-46 (1971). Younger abstention is appropriate if the following three criteria are met: (1) the state proceedings are ongoing; (2) the proceedings implicate important state interests; and (3) the state proceedings provide an adequate opportunity to litigate federal constitutional claims. See Middlesex Cnty. Ethics Comm. v. Garden State Bar Ass’n, 457 U.S. 423, 432 (1982). When Younger

² All citations to electronically-filed documents refer to the CM/ECF pagination.

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abstention is appropriate, the court must dismiss the action without prejudice. Beltran v. California, 871 F.2d 777, 782 (9th Cir. 1988) (as amended Mar. 30, 1989).

Here, Petitioner has a state petition pending before the California Court of Appeal. It appears the state proceedings are ongoing, as no decision has been made in that case. California Appellate Courts Case Information, 2nd Appellate District, Case No. B306135, <https://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov>. The Court will need additional information to determine whether Younger abstention is appropriate in this case.

III. CONCLUSION

Petitioner is **ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE** in writing **by April 22, 2021** why the Court should not dismiss this action without prejudice under Younger and Sherwood.

In the alternative, Petitioner may request a voluntary dismissal of this action without prejudice pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a). Petitioner is advised that any dismissed claims may be later subject to the statute of limitations under 28 U.S.C. 2244(d)(1).

Petitioner is expressly warned that his failure to timely comply with this Order may result in the Court issuing an order dismissing for the reasons stated above, failure to prosecute, and/or failure to obey Court orders pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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