

E-Filed 1/9/12

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

ALFONSO MOUZON,
Petitioner,

No. C 11-0637 RS (PR)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

v.

PAM AHLIN,
Respondent.

INTRODUCTION

This is a federal habeas corpus action filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 by a *pro se* state prisoner. The original petition was dismissed with leave to amend. The amended petition is now before the Court for review pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2243 and Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. Petitioner has paid the filing fee.

DISCUSSION

This Court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus “in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a). A district court considering an application for a writ of habeas corpus shall “award the writ

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1 or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ should not be granted,
2 unless it appears from the application that the applicant or person detained is not entitled
3 thereto.” 28 U.S.C. § 2243. Summary dismissal is appropriate only where the allegations in
4 the petition are vague or conclusory, palpably incredible, or patently frivolous or false. *See*
5 *Hendricks v. Vasquez*, 908 F.2d 490, 491 (9th Cir. 1990).

6 Petitioner challenges a 2006 determination by the Alameda County Superior Court
7 that he is a sexually violent predator under California law. As grounds for federal habeas
8 relief, petitioner claims that (1) the Department of Mental Health failed to adhere to the
9 requirements of the sexually violent predator law in making their determination; (2) his due
10 process rights have been violated; and that his commitment violates (3) the Double Jeopardy
11 and (4) Ex Post Facto Clauses. Claim 1 is DISMISSED without leave to amend. It is a state
12 law claim, and as such, it is not remediable on federal habeas review, even if state law were
13 erroneously applied or interpreted. *See Swarthout v. Cooke*, 131 S. Ct. 859, 861–62 (2011).
14 Claims 2, 3, and 4, however, appear to state claims for relief, when liberally construed.

15 CONCLUSION

16 1. The Clerk shall serve by certified mail a copy of this order, the petition and all
17 attachments thereto, on respondent and respondent’s counsel, the Attorney General for the
18 State of California. The Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on petitioner.

19 2. Respondent shall file with the Court and serve on petitioner, within **ninety (90)**
20 days of the date this order is filed, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the
21 Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not
22 be granted based on petitioner’s cognizable claim. Respondent shall file with the answer and
23 serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the state trial record that previously have been
24 transcribed and that are relevant to a determination of the issues presented by the petition.

25 3. If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse
26 with the Court and serving it on respondent’s counsel within **thirty (30)** days of the date the
27 answer is filed.

1 4. In lieu of an answer, respondent may file, within **ninety (90)** days of the date this
2 order is filed, a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds, as set forth in the Advisory
3 Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. If respondent files
4 such a motion, petitioner shall file with the Court and serve on respondent an opposition or
5 statement of non-opposition within **thirty (30)** days of the date the motion is filed, and
6 respondent shall file with the Court and serve on petitioner a reply within **fifteen (15)** days of
7 the date any opposition is filed.

8 5. Petitioner is reminded that all communications with the Court must be served on
9 respondent by mailing a true copy of the document to respondent's counsel.

10 6. It is petitioner's responsibility to prosecute this case. Petitioner must keep the
11 Court and respondent informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's
12 orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for
13 failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

14 7. Upon a showing of good cause, requests for a reasonable extension of time will be
15 granted provided they are filed on or before the deadline they seek to extend.

16 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

17 DATED: January 9, 2012


RICHARD SEEBORG
United States District Judge