

1 **DISCUSSION**

2 A. Standard of Review

3 This court may entertain a petition for a writ of habeas corpus "in behalf
4 of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the
5 ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of
6 the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a).

7 It shall "award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show
8 cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application
9 that the applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto." Id. § 2243.

10 B. Claims

11 Petitioner seeks federal habeas corpus relief on the grounds that her plea
12 was not voluntary and intelligent, and that counsel did not provide her with
13 effective assistance. It well established that the only challenges left open in
14 federal habeas corpus after a plea of guilty (or no contest) is the voluntary and
15 intelligent character of the plea and the nature of the advice of counsel to plead.
16 Hill v. Lockhart, 474 U.S. 52, 56-57 (1985). Liberally construed, petitioner's
17 claims appear minimally cognizable under § 2254 and merit an answer from
18 respondent. See Zichko v. Idaho, 247 F.3d 1015, 1020 (9th Cir. 2001) (federal
19 courts must construe pro se petitions for writs of habeas corpus liberally).

20 **CONCLUSION**

21 For the foregoing reasons and for good cause shown,

22 1. Petitioner's request to proceed in forma pauperis (docket # 4) is
23 GRANTED. But her request for "tolling" of the limitation period (docket # 1) is
24 DENIED as premature.

25 2. The clerk shall serve a copy of this order and the petition and all
26 attachments thereto on respondent and respondent's attorney, the Attorney
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1 General of the State of California. The clerk also shall serve a copy of this order
2 on petitioner.

3 3. Respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner, within
4 60 days of the issuance of this order, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule
5 5 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of
6 habeas corpus should not be granted. Respondent shall file with the answer and
7 serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the state trial record that have been
8 transcribed previously and that are relevant to a determination of the issues
9 presented by the petition.

10 If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a
11 traverse with the court and serving it on respondent within 30 days of his receipt
12 of the answer.

13 4. Respondent may file a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds in
14 lieu of an answer, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the
15 Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. If respondent files such a motion,
16 petitioner must serve and file an opposition or statement of non-opposition not
17 more than 28 days after the motion is served and filed, and respondent must serve
18 and file a reply to an opposition not more than 14 days after the opposition is
19 served and filed.

20 5. Petitioner is reminded that all communications with the court must
21 be served on respondent by mailing a true copy of the document to respondent's
22 counsel. Petitioner must also keep the court and all parties informed of any
23 change of address.

24 SO ORDERED.

25 DATED: Nov. 7, 2012



CHARLES R. BREYER
United States District Judge

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