

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
10

11 MICHAEL THOMAS GORMAN,

No. C 07-02883 SBA (PR)

12 Petitioner,

**ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL**

13 v.

14 IVAN D. CLAY, Warden

15 Respondent.
16 _____/

17 Petitioner has requested appointment of counsel in this action.

18 The Sixth Amendment right to counsel does not apply in habeas corpus actions. See
19 Knaubert v. Goldsmith, 791 F.2d 722, 728 (9th Cir. 1986). Title 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B),
20 however, authorizes a district court to appoint counsel to represent a habeas petitioner whenever "the
21 court determines that the interests of justice so require" and such person is financially unable to
22 obtain representation. The decision to appoint counsel is within the discretion of the district court.
23 See Chaney v. Lewis, 801 F.2d 1191, 1196 (9th Cir. 1986); Knaubert, 791 F.2d at 728; Bashor v.
24 Risley, 730 F.2d 1228, 1234 (9th Cir. 1984). The courts have made appointment of counsel the
25 exception rather than the rule by limiting it to: (1) capital cases; (2) cases that turn on substantial and
26 complex procedural, legal or mixed legal and factual questions; (3) cases involving uneducated or
27 mentally or physically impaired petitioners; (4) cases likely to require the assistance of experts either
28 in framing or in trying the claims; (5) cases in which petitioner is in no position to investigate crucial

1 facts; and (6) factually complex cases. See generally 1 J. Liebman & R. Hertz, Federal Habeas
2 Corpus Practice and Procedure § 12.3b at 383-86 (2d ed. 1994). Appointment is mandatory only
3 when the circumstances of a particular case indicate that appointed counsel is necessary to prevent
4 due process violations. See Chaney, 801 F.2d at 1196; Eskridge v. Rhay, 345 F.2d 778, 782 (9th
5 Cir. 1965).

6 At this time, the Court is unable to determine whether the appointment of counsel is
7 mandated for Petitioner. Accordingly, the interests of justice do not require appointment of counsel,
8 and Petitioner's request is DENIED. This denial is without prejudice to the Court's sua sponte
9 reconsideration should the Court find an evidentiary hearing necessary following consideration of
10 the merits of Petitioner's claims.

11 This Order terminates Docket no. 17.

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13 Dated: 12/8/08

14 
15 SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG
16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE
3 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

4 GORMAN et al,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7 KRAMER et al,

8 Defendant.

Case Number: CV07-02883 SBA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

9 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District
10 Court, Northern District of California.

11 That on December 8, 2008, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said
12 copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said
13 envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located
14 in the Clerk's office.

15 Michael Thomas Gorman Prisoner Id T80924
16 Sierra Conservation Center
17 5150 O'Byrnes Ferry Road
18 Jamestown, CA 95327

19 Dated: December 8, 2008

20 Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
21 By: LISA R CLARK, Deputy Clerk
22
23
24
25
26
27
28