

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LEE JOHN GREER,

Petitioner,

v.

WARDEN OF CORCORAN STATE PRISON,
et al.,

Respondents.

No. C 10-02380 SBA (PR)

**ORDER GRANTING IN FORMA
PAUPERIS STATUS; STAYING HABEAS
PROCEEDINGS; DIRECTING
PETITIONER TO FILE QUARTERLY
STATUS REPORTS; AND DIRECTING
CLERK TO ADMINISTRATIVELY
CLOSE THIS CASE UNTIL THE COURT
ISSUES ORDER LIFTING STAY**

Petitioner, a state prisoner, has filed this petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 and an application for leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

Petitioner has also filed a motion to stay his federal petition while he exhausts his remedies in state court.

Prisoners in state custody who wish to challenge in federal habeas proceedings either the fact or length of their confinement are first required to exhaust state judicial remedies by presenting the highest state court available with a fair opportunity to rule on the merits of each and every claim they seek to raise in federal court. See 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b),(c)); Rose v. Lundy, 455 U.S. 509, 515-16 (1982). If available state remedies have not been exhausted as to all claims, the district court must dismiss the petition. Id. at 510; Guizar v. Estelle, 843 F.2d 371, 372 (9th Cir. 1988). A dismissal solely for failure to exhaust is not a bar to returning to federal court after exhausting available state remedies. See Trimble v. City of Santa Rosa, 49 F.3d 583, 586 (9th Cir. 1995).

Petitioners may seek a stay of the petition pursuant to Pace v. DiGuglielmo, 125 S. Ct. 1807, 1813-14 (2005), under which a prisoner may file a protective petition in federal court and ask the court to stay federal habeas proceedings until all state remedies are exhausted. District courts have

1 the authority to issue stays, and the habeas statute does not deprive them of that authority. Rhines v.
2 Webber, 125 S. Ct. 1528, 1535 (2005). A stay is appropriate where the district court determines that
3 good cause existed for the petitioner's failure to exhaust his claims in state court, and that such
4 claims are potentially meritorious. Id.; see also Pace, 125 S. Ct. at 1813-14.

5 Here, it appears that good cause exists for Petitioner's failure to exhaust his claims on direct
6 appeal because his claims could be raised by way of state habeas corpus. Moreover, the claims state
7 cognizable bases for federal habeas relief. This is Petitioner's first habeas petition, and there is no
8 evidence that he seeks the stay for improper purposes. See Fetterly v. Paskett, 997 F.2d 1295, 1301-
9 02 (9th Cir. 1993) (holding that a stay for the purpose of permitting exhaustion of unexhausted
10 claims should be granted only if the claims petitioner seeks to pursue are cognizable under § 2254;
11 there is a likelihood of prejudice to petitioner if the stay is not granted; and there is no evidence that
12 the motion for a stay is brought to delay, vex, or harass, or that the request is an abuse of the writ).
13 Accordingly, the Court GRANTS Petitioner's request for a stay.

14 These proceedings are hereby STAYED pending Petitioner's exhaustion of his state judicial
15 remedies. Petitioner must act diligently in exhausting his state judicial remedies, or the stay may be
16 lifted. He must file quarterly reports describing the progress of his state court proceedings,
17 commencing **thirty (30) days** from the date of this Order and continuing every **ninety (90) days**
18 thereafter until his state court proceedings are terminated. He must also attach to his status reports
19 copies of the cover page of any document that he files with or receives from the state courts relating
20 to the claims.

21 The Clerk of the Court shall ADMINISTRATIVELY CLOSE the file pending the stay of this
22 action. Nothing further will take place in this action until Petitioner receives a final decision from
23 the highest state court and, within **thirty (30) days** of doing so, moves to reopen the action, lift the
24 Court's stay and amend the stayed petition to add the newly-exhausted claims.

25 Petitioner's application to proceed in forma pauperis is GRANTED.

26 This Order terminates Docket nos. 2, 3.

27 IT IS SO ORDERED.

28 DATED: 6/25/10


SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG
United States District Judge

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

4
5
6 LEE JOHN GREER,
7 Plaintiff,

Case Number: CV10-02380 SBA
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

8 v.

9 WARDEN OF CORCORAN STATE PRISON et
10 al,
11 Defendant.

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

14 That on June 25, 2010, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said
15 copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said
16 envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle
17 located in the Clerk's office.

18 Lee John Greer F-81959
19 Corcoran State Prison
20 4001 King Road
21 Corcoran, CA 93212

22 Dated: June 25, 2010

Richard W. Wiekling, Clerk
By: LISA R CLARK, Deputy Clerk