

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil Action No. 10-cv-00608-BNB

STEVEN P. KEARNS, #129893,

Applicant,

v.

ARI ZAVARAS, Colo. Dept. of Corrections, and  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF COLORADO,

Respondents.

FILED  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DENVER, COLORADO

APR -1 2010

GREGORY C. LANGHAM  
CLERK

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ORDER TO FILE PRE-ANSWER RESPONSE

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As part of the preliminary consideration of the Application for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 filed on March 16, 2010, in this action and pursuant to *Denson v. Abbott*, 554 F. Supp. 2d 1206 (D. Colo. 2008), the Court has determined that a limited Pre-Answer Response is appropriate. Respondents are directed pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts to file a Pre-Answer Response limited to addressing the affirmative defenses of timeliness under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d) and/or exhaustion of state court remedies under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(A). If Respondents do not intend to raise either of these affirmative defenses, they must notify the Court of that decision in the Pre-Answer Response. Respondents may not file a dispositive motion as their Pre-Answer Response, or an Answer, or otherwise address the merits of the claims in response to this Order.

In support of the Pre-Answer Response, Respondents should attach as exhibits

all relevant portions of the state court record, including but not limited to copies of all documents demonstrating whether this action is filed in a timely manner and/or whether Applicant has exhausted state court remedies.

Applicant may reply to the Pre-Answer Response and provide any information that might be relevant to the one-year limitation period under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d) and/or the exhaustion of state court remedies. Applicant also should include information relevant to equitable tolling, specifically as to whether he has pursued his claims diligently and whether some extraordinary circumstance prevented him from filing a timely 28 U.S.C. § 2254 action in this Court. Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that **within twenty one (21) days from the date of this Order** Respondents shall file a Pre-Answer Response that complies with this Order. It is

FURTHER ORDERED that **within twenty one (21) days of the filing of the Pre-Answer Response** Applicant may file a Reply, if he desires. It is

FURTHER ORDERED that if Respondents do not intend to raise either of the affirmative defenses of timeliness or exhaustion of state court remedies, they must notify the Court of that decision in the Pre-Answer Response.

DATED April 1, 2010, at Denver, Colorado.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Boyd N. Boland  
United States Magistrate Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

Civil Action No. 10-cv-00608-BNB

Steven P. Kearns  
Prisoner No. 129893  
Colorado Correctional Center  
PO Box 4020  
Golden, CO 80401

Ari Zavaras  
c/o Keith Nordell  
Colorado Department of Corrections  
Office of Legal Affairs  
**DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY**

John Suthers, Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
**DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY**

Paul Sanzo, Asst. Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
**DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY**  
**COURTESY COPY**

I hereby certify that I have mailed a copy of the ORDER to the above-named individuals, and the following forms to Keith Nordell for service of process on Ari Zavaras; and to John Suthers: APPLICATION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS FILED 3/16/10 on 4/1/10.

GREGORY C. LANGHAM, CLERK

By: 

Deputy Clerk