

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil Action No. 13-cv-02181-BNB

MANUEL DePINEDA,

Applicant,

v.

LOU ARCHULETA, and
MARY CARLSON, Time Comp.,

Respondents.

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

Applicant, Manuel DePineda, is a prisoner in the custody of the Colorado Department of Corrections (DOC) at the Fremont Correctional Facility in Cañon City, Colorado. Mr. DePineda has filed *pro se* an Application for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (ECF No. 1). The Court must construe the application liberally because Mr. DePineda is not represented by an attorney. *See Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520-21 (1972); *Hall v. Bellmon*, 935 F.2d 1106, 1110 (10th Cir. 1991). However, the Court should not be an advocate for a *pro se* litigant. *See Hall*, 935 F.2d at 1110. For the reasons stated below, the action will be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

Although the specific claims for relief he is asserting are not entirely clear, it is clear that Mr. DePineda contends that the trial court lacked jurisdiction, the statute pursuant to which he was sentenced is unconstitutional, and he is falsely imprisoned. Therefore, the Court finds that Mr. DePineda is challenging the validity of his state court

criminal conviction and sentence in this habeas corpus action. Because Mr. DePineda is challenging the validity of his conviction and sentence, rather than the execution of his sentence, the Court construes the application as being asserted pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. See *Montez v. McKinna*, 208 F.3d 862, 865 (10th Cir. 2000).

Mr. DePineda previously sought habeas corpus relief in this Court pursuant to § 2254 challenging the validity of his state court conviction and sentence. See *DePineda v. McKenna*, No. 90-cv-01443-SGF-DEA (D. Colo. Oct. 17, 1990), *appeal dismissed*, No. 90-1312, 1991 WL 65066 (10th Cir. Apr. 24, 1991); *DePineda v. Gunter*, No. 91-cv-00977-DBS-RMB (D. Colo. Aug. 5, 1991), *appeal dismissed*, No. 91-1294, 1991 WL 268841 (10th Cir. Dec. 11, 1991); *DePineda v. Cooper*, No. 92-cv-01400-LTB (D. Colo. Nov. 16, 1992), *aff'd*, No. 93-1212, 1993 WL 482907 (10th Cir. Nov. 22, 1993); *DePineda v. Gunter*, No. 93-cv-00446-EWN (D. Colo. Apr. 30, 1994); *DePineda v. Zavaras*, No. 93-cv-02665-LTB (D. Colo. Jan. 20, 1994), *aff'd*, No. 94-1052, 1994 WL 475019 (10th Cir. Sept. 1, 1994); *DePineda v. Golder*, No. 03-cv-01106-ZLW (D. Colo. July 1, 2003); *DePineda v. Ortiz*, No. 04-cv-01199-ZLW (D. Colo. July 20, 2004); *DePineda v. Ortiz*, No. 05-cv-00691-ZLW (D. Colo. Apr. 22, 2005); *DePineda v. Milyard*, No. 09-cv-02009-ZLW (D. Colo. Sept. 16, 2009), *appeal dismissed*, No. 09-1424 (10th Cir. Dec. 10, 2009); *DePineda v. Milyard*, No. 09-cv-02594-ZLW (D. Colo. Nov. 20, 2009), *appeal dismissed*, No. 09-1540 (10th Cir. Feb. 11, 2010); *DePineda v. Clements*, No. 12-cv-02066-LTB (D. Colo. Aug. 14, 2012); *DePineda v. Clements*, No. 12-cv-03089-LTB (D. Colo. Nov. 30, 2012), *appeal dismissed*, No. 12-1489 (10th Cir. Jan. 9, 2013); *DePineda v. Medina*, No. 13-cv-00152-LTB (D. Colo. Mar. 8, 2013), *appeal dismissed*, No. 13-1105 (10th Cir. Apr. 3, 2013). One of these prior actions was

dismissed without prejudice for failure to exhaust state remedies. See 92-cv-01400-LTB. Four were dismissed on the merits. See 93-cv-02665-LTB; 93-cv-00446-EWN; 91-cv-00977-DBS-RMB; 90-cv-01443-SGF-DEA. Three were transferred to the Tenth Circuit because Mr. DePineda had not obtained authorization from that court to file a second or successive application. See 05-cv-00691-ZLW; 04-cv-01199-ZLW; 03-cv-01106-ZLW. Mr. DePineda's most recent habeas corpus actions challenging the validity of his conviction and sentence were dismissed for lack of jurisdiction because he had not obtained the necessary authorization to file a second or successive application. See 13-cv-00152-LTB; 12-cv-03089-LTB; 12-cv-02066-LTB; 09-cv-02594-ZLW; 09-cv-02009-ZLW.

Although Mr. DePineda fails to list any of these prior actions in the amended application (see ECF No. 1 at 4-5), the Court may take judicial notice of its own records and files that are part of the Court's public records, see *St. Louis Baptist Temple, Inc. v. Fed. Deposit Ins. Corp.*, 605 F.2d 1169, 1172 (10th Cir. 1979). The Court has examined the records for the cases listed above and finds that Mr. DePineda previously has challenged the validity of his conviction and sentence. Therefore, the instant application is a second or successive application.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A), Mr. DePineda must apply to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit for an order authorizing this Court to consider his second or successive habeas corpus application. See *In re Cline*, 531 F.3d 1249, 1252 (10th Cir. 2008) (per curiam). In the absence of such authorization, the Court lacks jurisdiction to consider the merits of the claims asserted in a second or successive § 2254 application. See *id.* at 1251. An applicant seeking authorization to

file a second or successive application for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to § 2254 must demonstrate that any claim he seeks to raise is based on “a new rule of constitutional law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court, that was previously unavailable,” 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2)(A); or that “the factual predicate for the claim could not have been discovered previously through the exercise of due diligence” and “the facts underlying the claim, if proven and viewed in light of the evidence as a whole, would be sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that, but for constitutional error, no reasonable factfinder would have found the applicant guilty of the underlying offense.” 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2)(B).

Mr. DePineda does not allege that he has obtained authorization from the Tenth Circuit to file a second or successive § 2254 application. Therefore, the Court must either dismiss the claims challenging the validity of his conviction and sentence for lack of jurisdiction or, if it is in the interest of justice, transfer these claims to the Tenth Circuit pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1631. *In re Cline*, 531 F.3d at 1252. The factors to be

considered in deciding whether a transfer is in the interest of justice include whether the claims would be time barred if filed anew in the proper forum, whether the claims alleged are likely to have merit, and whether the claims were filed in good faith or if, on the other hand, it was clear at the time of filing that the court lacked the requisite jurisdiction.

Id. at 1251. When “there is no risk that a meritorious successive claim will be lost absent a § 1631 transfer, a district court does not abuse its discretion if it concludes it is not in the interest of justice to transfer the matter.” *Id.* at 1252.

Mr. DePineda’s claims in this action are not based on either a new rule of constitutional law or newly discovered evidence as required pursuant to § 2244(b)(2).

Therefore, the Court finds that a transfer is not in the interest of justice for that reason alone. *See id.*

Consideration of the other relevant factors also supports this conclusion. Although it appears that Mr. DePineda's claims challenging the validity of his conviction and sentence would be time-barred if filed anew in the proper forum, it appears that the claims would be time-barred even if Mr. DePineda had sought proper authorization prior to filing in this Court. There also is no indication that the claims Mr. DePineda seeks to raise have any merit. Finally, it was clear when the instant action was filed that this Court lacks jurisdiction over the application. As noted above, Mr. DePineda has been advised in numerous prior habeas corpus actions that this Court lacks jurisdiction to consider claims challenging the validity of his conviction and sentence in a second or successive application in the absence of authorization by the Tenth Circuit. As a result, the Court finds that a transfer of his action to the Tenth Circuit is not in the interest of justice. Instead, the action will be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the Court certifies pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this order would not be taken in good faith and therefore *in forma pauperis* status will be denied for the purpose of appeal. *See Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438 (1962). If Applicant files a notice of appeal he also must pay the full \$455 appellate filing fee or file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* in the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit within thirty days in accordance with Fed. R. App. P. 24. Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the habeas corpus application (ECF No. 1) is denied and the action is dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. It is

FURTHER ORDERED that no certificate of appealability will issue because Applicant has not made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right. It is

FURTHER ORDERED that leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* on appeal is denied without prejudice to the filing of a motion seeking leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* on appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

DATED at Denver, Colorado, this 19th day of August, 2013.

BY THE COURT:

s/Lewis T. Babcock
LEWIS T. BABCOCK, Senior Judge
United States District Court