

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT**

MICHAEL C. SKAKEL	:	
Petitioner,	:	Case No. 3:07 CV 1625 (PCD)
v.	:	
PETER J. MURPHY,	:	FEBRUARY 17, 2009
Respondent.	:	

**MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO
RESPOND TO PETITIONER'S MOTIONS**

Pursuant to Rule 7(b) of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure for the District of Connecticut, the respondent hereby requests an extension of time of three days, or until **February 20, 2009**, to file his response to the three motions filed by the petitioner on January 8, 2009. This is the respondent's third request for an extension of time to respond to the petitioner's motions. Attorney Hope C. Seeley, the petitioner's counsel, does not object to the respondent's request.

The grounds for this motion are as follows:

1. After trial by jury in the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Fairfield, the petitioner was convicted murder, in violation of General Statutes § 53a-54a. On August 29, 2002, the trial court, *Kavanewsky, J.*, sentenced the petitioner to imprisonment for a term of twenty years to life. The petitioner appealed to the Connecticut Supreme Court, which affirmed his conviction on January 24, 2006. State v. Skakel, 276 Conn. 633, 888 A.2d 985 (2006). The petitioner filed a petition for certification to the United States Supreme Court which was denied on November 13, 2006. Skakel v. Connecticut, ___ U.S. ___, 127 S.Ct. 578, 166 L.Ed.2d 428 (2006).

2. On August 25, 2005, the petitioner filed a petition for a new trial pursuant to General Statutes § 52-270 in the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Fairfield. The trial court, *Karazin, J.*, denied the petitioner's petition for a new trial on October 25, 2007. Skakel v. State, CV05-0006524-S, Judicial District of Fairfield.

3. The petitioner filed his application for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 on November 5, 2007. On November 8, 2007, this court issued an order to show cause directing the respondent to file a response to the petitioner's habeas corpus petition. The respondent filed his answer to the allegations in the petitioner's habeas corpus petition on December 21, 2008.

4. On March 5, 2008, this court ordered the petitioner and the respondent to file cross-motions for summary judgment by March 31, 2008.

5. Between March 11, 2008 and October 8, 2008, the parties filed nine joint motions for an extension of time to file their cross-motions for summary judgment, all of which were granted by the court. The parties filed their cross-motions for summary judgment in compliance with the court's order on October 27, 2008.

6. On November 6 and December 16, 2008, the parties filed joint motions for extensions of time to file their responses to the cross-motions for summary judgment. Both motions were granted by the court, the second of which directed the parties to file their responses to the motions for summary judgment by January 7, 2009.

7. On January 7, 2009, the petitioner filed his response to the motion for summary judgment filed by the respondent in compliance with the court's order. On January 15, 2009, the respondent filed his response to the motion for summary judgment

filed by the petitioner. Thereafter, the court granted the respondent's motion seeking permission to file his response on January 15.

8. On January 8, 2009, the petitioner filed a motion for leave to amend his habeas corpus petition, a motion for stay and abeyance and a motion for a hearing to set bail. The respondent filed motions for extension of time to respond to the petitioner's motions on January 23, 2009 and February 9, 2009. The court granted the respondent's motions on January 26, 2009 and February 10, 2009, respectively.

9. In his motion for leave to amend, the petitioner is attempting to add seven new claims to his habeas corpus petition. Preparing appropriate responses to the motions filed by the petitioner on January 8, 2009 will require sufficient time for analysis of both the law and the facts pertaining to the new claims. Since returning from his military duty on February 2, 2009, counsel for the respondent has been engaged in preparing responses to the petitioner's motions. The responses, however, have taken more time than originally anticipated. In addition, counsel for the respondent has been required to assist another attorney in the Civil Litigation Bureau in preparing his brief to the Appellate Court in Ebron v. Commissioner of Correction, Appellate Court Case No. 29583. Accordingly, counsel for the respondent believes that it will require four more days to prepare adequate responses to the petitioner's motions.

10. On February 17, 2009, counsel for the respondent contacted Attorney Hope Seeley, counsel for the petitioner, and advised her that the respondent was requesting an extension of time to respond to the motions filed by the petitioner. Attorney Seeley indicated that she had no objection to the respondent's request.

WHEREFORE, the respondent hereby moves this court for an extension of time of eight days, or until **February 20, 2009**, to file his responses to the petitioner's motion for leave to amend his petition, motion for stay and abeyance and motion for a hearing to set bail.

Respectfully submitted,

PETER J. MURPHY
WARDEN, MacDOUGALL-WALKER
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

RESPONDENT

By: /s/ Michael E. O'Hare
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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was mailed, first class postage prepaid, to Attorney Hope C. Seeley, Attorney Hubert J. Santos, and Attorney Sandra L. Snaden, Santos & Seeley P.C., 51 Russ Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, on February 17, 2009.

/s/ Michael E. O'Hare
MICHAEL E. O'HARE
Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney