

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
PANAMA CITY DIVISION**

J. P. OWENS, JR,

Petitioner,

v.

CASE NO. 5:10cv183/RS-AK

WALTER A. MCNEIL,

Respondent.

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ORDER

Before me is Petitioner's Second Amended Petition For Writ Of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (Doc. 8). Petitioner has previously been granted leave to proceed as a pauper (Doc. 2).

Respondent shall file an answer addressing the allegations in the petition. § 2254 Rule 5(b). "In addition, [the answer] must state whether any claim in the petition is barred by a failure to exhaust state remedies, a procedural bar, non-retroactivity, or a statute of limitations." *Id.* Respondent may respond to the merits without waiving the exhaustion requirement. *See* § 2254(b)(2) and § 2254(b)(3). Respondent shall include references to the record (included with the answer pursuant to § 2254 Rule 5(d)) and citations to relevant legal authority.

The response shall be styled as an answer unless a motion to dismiss the entire petition is appropriate. If a motion to dismiss is filed, Respondent need not also file an answer unless directed to do so. If an answer is filed raising a procedural defense to any ground for relief, Respondent may await a ruling before responding on the merits to that particular ground.

Petitioner may file a reply to any of Respondent's arguments within the time set by this

Order, but is not required to do so. § 2254 Rule 5(e). I will review the record after the answer and Petitioner's reply (if any) are filed. If it does not appear that a hearing or additional argument is warranted, then I will make appropriate disposition of the petition. If an evidentiary hearing is warranted and permitted,¹ counsel will be appointed. § 2254 Rule 8.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The clerk shall serve a copy of the Second Amended Petition (Doc. 8), along with this Order, to Respondent and the Attorney General of the State of Florida via certified mail, return receipt requested.
2. Respondent shall file an answer or other pleading not later than November 23, 2010. If voluminous exhibits or records (such as transcripts) are submitted in support of the answer, **paper copies shall be provided to the court.**
3. Any reply filed by Petitioner shall be filed not later than December 23, 2010.

ORDERED on September 13, 2010.

/S/ Richard Smoak

RICHARD SMOAK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

¹Section 2254(e)(2) generally bars the court from granting an evidentiary hearing if the Petitioner failed to properly develop the facts in support of his claim in state court. Schriro v. Landrigan, 550 U.S. 465, 473-74 n.1 (2007). Even where not barred by the statute, the Court has the discretion to deny a hearing if the record refutes the allegations or otherwise precludes relief. Id. (citations omitted).