

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

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

THOMAS WAYNE CRUMP,
Petitioner,
vs.
TIMOTHY FILSON, *et al.*,
Respondents.

2:07-cv-00492-APG-CWH
ORDER

_____ /

This capital habeas corpus action was stayed on October 17, 2008, pending the petitioner’s exhaustion of claims in state court. *See* Order entered October 17, 2008 (ECF No. 52).

On January 11, 2017, petitioner filed a Motion to Temporarily Lift the Stay to Supplement the First Amended Petition (ECF No. 78), and a Motion to Continue the Stay (ECF No. 80). Respondents filed oppositions to both motions (ECF Nos. 82, 83), and petitioner filed replies (ECF No. 84, 85).

In his motion to temporarily lift the stay to supplement his petition, petitioner requests leave of court to add to his petition a claim based on *Hurst v. Florida*, 136 S.Ct. 616 (2016). Petitioner filed the proposed additional claim in the form of a supplement to his petition (ECF No. 79). Petitioner states that the state-court habeas action that he initiated on September 10, 2008, was completed on December 16, 2016, when the Nevada Supreme Court issued its remittitur after affirming the dismissal of that action. *See* Motion to Continue the Stay (ECF No. 80), p. 2.

1 Petitioner states, further, that on January 6, 2017, he filed, in the state district court, a new petition
2 for writ of habeas corpus, asserting a claim based on *Hurst*. *See id.* at 2; *see also* Exhibit 1 to
3 Motion to Continue the Stay (ECF No. 81-1). Petitioner asks in his motion to continue the stay that
4 the stay of this action remain in place pending the conclusion of his new state-court habeas action, in
5 which he asserts the *Hurst* claim.

6 Respondents contend that petitioner has mischaracterized the addition of the *Hurst* claim as a
7 supplement, rather than an amendment. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 15. For purposes of this motion, the
8 distinction is immaterial. A petition for a writ of habeas corpus “may be amended or supplemented
9 as provided in the rules of procedure applicable to civil actions.” 28 U.S.C. § 2242; *see also* Rule
10 12, Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases (Rules of Civil Procedure apply to federal habeas
11 proceedings “to the extent that they are not inconsistent.”). Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)
12 permits a party to amend a pleading with the opposing party’s written consent or the court’s leave.
13 *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2). “The court should freely give leave when justice so requires.” *Id.*
14 “Courts may decline to grant leave to amend only if there is strong evidence of ‘undue delay, bad
15 faith or dilatory motive on the part of the movant, repeated failure to cure deficiencies by
16 amendments previously allowed, undue prejudice to the opposing party by virtue of allowance of the
17 amendment, [or] futility of amendment, etc.’” *Sonoma County. Ass’n of Retired Employees v.*
18 *Sonoma County*, 708 F.3d 1109, 1117 (9th Cir. 2013) (quoting *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182
19 (1962)). “[T]he consideration of prejudice to the opposing party carries the greatest weight.”
20 *Eminence Capital, LLC v. Aspeon, Inc.*, 316 F.3d 1048, 1052 (9th Cir. 2003).

21 *Hurst* was decided January 12, 2016. Respondents do not show that petitioner’s request to
22 add a claim based on *Hurst* within the following year involves undue delay, bad faith, or dilatory
23 motive, or that they would be unduly prejudiced by the addition of the claim. Furthermore, while
24 there appear to be serious questions regarding the retroactivity of *Hurst*, and its application in this
25 case, the court determines -- for purposes of the resolution of these motions only -- that there is no
26 showing that addition of the *Hurst* claim would be futile. “[P]roposed amendments [are futile when

1 they] are either duplicative of existing claims or patently frivolous.” *Murray v. Schriro*, 745 F.3d
2 984, 1015 (9th Cir. 2014), quoting *Bonin v. Calderon*, 59 F.3d 815, 846 (9th Cir. 1995). The Court
3 will, therefore, grant petitioner’s motion to temporarily lift the stay to supplement his petition.

4 Petitioner requests waiver of the requirements of LR 15-1, which generally requires that a
5 complete proposed amended petition be attached to a motion to amend, and that, after a motion to
6 amend is granted, the petitioner is to file the complete amended petition. Under the circumstances
7 here, in the interests of judicial economy and conserving the parties’ resources, the Court will waive
8 the requirements of Local Rule 15-1. After the completion of his pending state-court proceedings,
9 and if and when the stay of this action is permanently lifted, the Court will require petitioner to file
10 an amended habeas petition, including the new claim.

11 The Court will also grant petitioner’s motion to continue the stay that is currently in place in
12 this action. When this action was stayed, the Court stated:

13 The court’s intention is that this will be the last time that the court imposes a
14 stay to facilitate petitioner’s exhaustion of claims in state court. Petitioner must
15 exhaust *all* of his unexhausted claims in state court during the stay of this action
imposed pursuant to this order.

16 Order entered October 17, 2008 (ECF No. 52), p. 6 (emphasis in original). Under the circumstances,
17 with the case stayed for exhaustion of all petitioner’s claims in state court, with petitioner’s new
18 state habeas action asserting a *Hurst* claim under way, and in the interests of federal-state comity,
19 judicial economy, and conservation of the parties’ resources, the Court determines that the better
20 approach is to leave the stay of this action in place pending the completion of the state-court action
21 initiated by petitioner on January 6, 2017. The Court will, therefore, exercise its discretion to
22 continue the stay.

23 Nothing in this order will have any bearing on any other procedural issue in this case; nor
24 will any aspect of this order have any bearing on the Court’s consideration of the merits of
25 petitioner’s new claim in any other context.

26

