

1

2

3

4

5

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

6

7

8 BRIAN KERRY O'KEEFE,

9 *Petitioner,*

2:11-cv-02109-JCM-VCF

10

vs.

ORDER

11

12 SHERIFF DOUG GILLESPIE, *et al.*,13 *Respondents.*

14

15 This habeas matter comes before the court on a motion (#31) for withdrawal of
16 appointed counsel filed in proper person by the petitioner.

17 The court dismissed the action without prejudice because petitioner's *pro se* double-
18 jeopardy challenge to his state court retrial had not been exhausted in the state courts. This
19 matter currently is on appeal. Pursuant to a directive from the court of appeals, this court
20 appointed the federal public defender to represent petitioner on, *inter alia*, the current appeal.

21 Petitioner now seeks an order vacating the appointment so that he can proceed *pro*
22 *se*, asserting an alleged sixth amendment right to self-representation. He is not satisfied with
23 the representation provided by the federal public defender.¹

24 At the very outset, counsel was appointed pursuant to a directive of the court of
25 appeals, which currently has jurisdiction over the case on the still-pending appeal. Petitioner
26 must pursue his request in that court rather than this court.

27

28

¹The online docket record for the court of appeals reflects that petitioner also filed a motion to dismiss appointed counsel on November 15, 2013, in that court, which currently is pending.

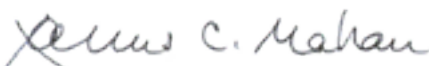
1 The court additionally notes that petitioner has no sixth amendment right to self-
2 representation in collateral review proceedings. *Cf. Martinez v. Court of Appeal of California*,
3 528 U.S. 152 (2000)(a criminal defendant has no right of self-representation on direct appeal).
4 Moreover, even in an original criminal proceeding, a defendant does not have a constitutional
5 right to counsel who agrees with the defendant on every aspect of case handling, who follows
6 his every directive, and who has provided representation that the defendant subjectively
7 regards to be satisfactory. *See, e.g., Morris v. Slappy*, 461 U.S. 1, 13-14 (1983). Petitioner's
8 dissatisfaction with counsel, in and of itself, therefore does not mandate that an appointment
9 be withdrawn. On the pending appeal, the court of appeals – not petitioner – determines
10 whether petitioner will be represented by appointed counsel and if and when the
11 representation ends.

12 IT THEREFORE IS ORDERED that petitioner's proper person motion (#31) for
13 withdrawal of appointed counsel is DENIED without prejudice, in deference to the authority
14 of the court of appeals over the matter.

15 The clerk of court shall SEND a notice of electronic filing of this order to the court of
16 appeals in connection with No. 12-15271 in that court and shall prominently reflect said
17 transmittal in the docket entry for this order.

18 The clerk further shall reflect petitioner's current institutional address and back number
19 (#90244) from #31 under his name on the left side of the docket sheet only, shall SEND a
20 hard copy of this order to petitioner in proper person at that address, and shall reflect said
21 hard copy mail transmittal to petitioner in proper person at that address in the docket entry
22 for this order.

23 DATED: December 30, 2013.

24
25
26 
27 JAMES C. MAHAN
28 United States District Judge