Bodden v. Gentry et al

Doc. 67

DECLARATION OF ARMILLA STALEY-NGOMO

STATE OF NEVADA)	
)	ss:
COUNTY OF CLARK)	

- I, ARMILLA STALEY-NGOMO, hereby declare under penalty of perjury the following is true and correct:
- I am an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Non-Capital Habeas
 Unit of the Federal Public Defender's Office.
- 2. On May 8, 2015, the Federal Public Defender's Office was appointed as counsel for Petitioner Karen Bodden, and was given thirty (30) days to file an appearance. ECF No. 6. On June 17, 2015, Assistant Federal Public Defender Melanie Gavisk entered her appearance. ECF No. 9. On June 3, 2016, Ms. Gavisk filed the First Amended Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus with exhibits. ECF Nos. 18-36.
- 3. On August 10, 2016, I entered my Notice of Appearance in this matter due to Ms. Gavisk leaving the Federal Public Defender's Office. ECF No. 40. However, I was on maternity leave from July 25, 2016 until October 26, 2016, and was therefore unable to work on Ms. Bodden's case during that three-month time period.
- 4. On September 7, 2016, Respondents' filed the Motion to Dismiss. ECF No. 41. Defense counsel's opposition to the motion to dismiss is currently due on March 31, 2017.
- 5. This is defense counsel's third request for an extension. Since my return from maternity leave, I have been assigned to eleven non-capital habeas corpus matters in which amended petitions are due, including three matters that were prioritized because the petitioners had AEDPA time remaining on their amended

petitions. All of my other pre-petition matters currently have deadlines within the next three months—on or about June of 2017. I therefore require additional time to effectively and thoroughly represent Ms. Bodden—a petitioner whom defense counsel believes is innocent and has been wrongfully convicted. More specifically, I require additional time to review the case file, conduct additional research and investigation, visit Ms. Bodden at the Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center, and prepare the opposition to the motion to dismiss. This motion is not filed for the purposes of delay, but in the interests of justice, as well as in the interests of Ms. Bodden. Nev. R. Prof. Conduct 1.1.

- 6. On March 22, 2017, I contacted Deputy Attorney General Matthew Johnson via email regarding this request, and was advised that he is not opposed to this request for an enlargement of time. However, his lack of objection should not be construed as a waiver of any procedural defenses, as a concession that any amended petition will be considered timely filed, or as a basis for equitable tolling.
- 7. For the reasons stated above, as well as the files and records in this case, I ask this Court to grant my request for an extension of time of thirty (30) days, and order that the opposition to the motion to dismiss be filed on or before April 30, 2017.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. DATED this 24th day of March, 2017.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

RICHARD F. BOULWARE, II
United States District Judge

DATED this 28th day of March, 2017.

Respectfully submitted, RENE L. VALLADARES Federal Public Defender

/s/ Armilla Staley-Ngomo

ARMILLA STALEY-NGOMO Assistant Federal Public Defender

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

In accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure, the undersigned hereby certifies that on this 24th day of March, 2017 a true and correct copy of the foregoing was filed electronically with the United States District Court. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the master service list as follows:

Matthew S. Johnson Deputy Attorney General 100 North Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701

/s/ Jessica Pillsbury

An Employee of the Federal Public Defender, District of Nevada