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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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DESHAWN L. THOMAS,

Case No. 2:18-cv-00020-GMN-PAL

Petitioner,

ORDER

v.

BRIAN WILLIAMS, et al.,

Respondents.

On August 7, 2018, the court granted a stay and administratively closed Deshawn L. Thomas' 28 U.S.C. § 2254 habeas corpus action while he litigated his state petition (ECF No. 21).

Thomas' further state-court proceedings have concluded, and he has now returned to this court seeking to reopen this case and requesting a scheduling order for the filing of a second-amended petition (ECF No. 26). Respondents indicate that they do not oppose the motion (ECF No. 27). Good cause appearing, this action is reopened.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that petitioner's motion to reopen this action (ECF No. 26) is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, as the stay is lifted by this order, the Clerk REOPEN THE FILE in this action.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that petitioner file a second-amended petition within **60 days** of the date of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondents file a response to the second-amended petition, including potentially by motion to dismiss, within **45 days** of service

1 of the amended petition, with any requests for relief by petitioner by motion otherwise
2 being subject to the normal briefing schedule under the local rules. Any response filed
3 should comply with the remaining provisions below, which are entered pursuant to
4 Habeas Rule 5.

5 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any procedural defenses raised by respondents
6 in this case be raised together in a single consolidated motion to dismiss. In other
7 words, the court does not wish to address any procedural defenses raised herein either
8 *in seriatum* fashion in multiple successive motions to dismiss or embedded in the
9 answer. Procedural defenses omitted from such motion to dismiss will be subject to
10 potential waiver. Respondents should not file a response in this case that consolidates
11 their procedural defenses, if any, with their response on the merits, except pursuant to
12 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(2) as to any unexhausted claims clearly lacking merit. If
13 respondents do seek dismissal of unexhausted claims under § 2254(b)(2): (a) they shall
14 do so within the single motion to dismiss not in the answer; and (b) they shall
15 specifically direct their argument to the standard for dismissal under § 2254(b)(2) set
16 forth in *Cassett v. Stewart*, 406 F.3d 614, 623-24 (9th Cir. 2005). In short, no
17 procedural defenses, including exhaustion, should be included with the merits in an
18 answer. All procedural defenses, including exhaustion, instead must be raised by
19 motion to dismiss.

20 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, in any answer filed on the merits, respondents
21 specifically cite to and address the applicable state court written decision and state
22 court record materials, if any, regarding each claim within the response as to that claim.

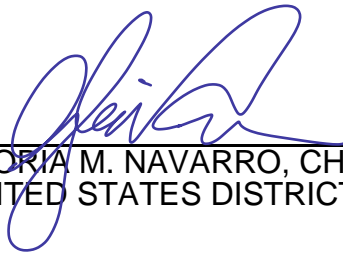
23 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that petitioner has **45 days** from service of the
24 answer, motion to dismiss, or other response to file a reply or opposition, with any other
25 requests for relief by respondents by motion otherwise being subject to the normal
26 briefing schedule under the local rules.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any additional state court record exhibits filed herein by either petitioner or respondents be filed with a separate index of exhibits identifying the exhibits by number. The CM/ECF attachments that are filed should be identified by the number of the exhibit in the attachment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, at this time, the parties send courtesy copies of **any responsive pleading or motion and INDICES OF EXHIBITS ONLY** to the Reno Division of this court. Courtesy copies shall be mailed to the Clerk of Court, 400 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV, 89501, and directed to the attention of "Staff Attorney" on the outside of the mailing address label. No further courtesy copies are required unless and until requested by the court.

DATED: 15 October 2020.



GLORIA M. NAVARRO, CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT