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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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ERIC RYAN SCOTT,

v.
STATE OF NEVADA,

Respondent.

Case No. 2:18-cv-00450-JCM-CWH

ORDER

This habeas matter comes before the court for review following the court’s order to show cause and the petitioner’s response thereto. (ECF No. 3; ECF No. 5 at 9-18)

The records of the state courts reflect that the criminal proceedings challenged in this case are ongoing.¹ Petitioner has yet to be sentenced and judgment of conviction entered, and thus petitioner is a pretrial detainee. On March 27, 2018, the court entered an order directing petitioner to show cause why the petition should not be dismissed for failure to exhaust and based on Younger abstention. Petitioner filed a response, along with an amended petition. (ECF No. 5). The amended petition eliminates all of petitioner’s original claims except for his claim of a double jeopardy violation.

An exception to Younger abstention exists where the petitioner challenges a pending trial or sentencing on the grounds that it violates double jeopardy. See *Mannes v. Gillespie*, 967 F.2d 1310, 1312-13 (9th Cir. 1992); *United States v. Vaughan*, 715 F.2d 1373, 1376 (9th Cir. 1983). But the petitioner still must exhaust his state court remedies before the federal courts may hear his case. *Mannes*, 967 F.2d at 1312. “[I]n the case of a double jeopardy claim the exhaustion

¹ The docket may be accessed via <https://www.clarkcountycourts.us/Portal/Home/WorkspaceMode?p=0> (last visited May 23, 2018).

1 requirement may be satisfied before a final judgment was rendered in a State court.’ However, the
2 petitioner must have exhausted those state remedies available to him or her before bringing a
3 petition for habeas corpus in federal court.” Greyson v. Kellam, 937 F.2d 1409, 1412–13 (9th Cir.
4 1991).

5 In his response, petitioner asserts that he exhausted his double jeopardy claim by filing a
6 habeas petition in the state trial court. Petitioner represents that the trial court “vacated” his
7 petition because it was filed before he had been sentenced. Petitioner does not indicate that he
8 attempted to appeal the trial court’s ruling or otherwise seek relief from the Nevada Supreme Court
9 in any fashion.² Thus, petitioner has not exhausted all state remedies available to him. Moreover,
10 even if the filing of the state petition were enough in and of itself to exhaust his remedies, the
11 petition did not clearly assert a double jeopardy claim. Rather, while petitioner asserted the factual
12 basis of his double jeopardy claim, he framed it as a violation of due process. (See ECF No. 5 at
13 13). Not only that, petitioner did not indicate the he was asserting a federal due process claim. A
14 broad citation to a general constitutional provision, particularly where there is no indication that
15 petitioner is raising a federal claim, is insufficient to exhaust a claim. *Duncan v. Henry*, 513 U.S.
16 364, 364-66 (1995); *Hiivala v. Wood*, 195 F.3d 1098, 1106 (9th Cir. 1999) (“[G]eneral appeals to
17 broad constitutional principles, such as due process, equal protection, and the right to a fair trial,
18 are insufficient to establish exhaustion.”). Accordingly, as petitioner has failed to exhaust his state
19 court remedies, the petition must be dismissed without prejudice as wholly unexhausted.

20 In accordance with the foregoing, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the petition in this
21 case (ECF No. 5) is DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

22 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that petitioner is denied a certificate of appealability, as
23 jurists of reason would not find the court’s dismissal of this petition to be debatable or wrong.

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25 _____
26 ² As noted in the court’s prior order, petitioner has filed one appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court, which remains
27 pending. That appeal was filed on March 22, 2017. See [http://caseinfo.nvsupremecourt.us/public/
28 caseView.do?csIID=42860](http://caseinfo.nvsupremecourt.us/public/caseView.do?csIID=42860) (last visited May 24, 2018). Petitioner did not file his habeas corpus petition in state court
until May 10, 2017. (ECF No. 5 at 9). Because the appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court predated the filing of the
habeas petition, petitioner’s appeal could not relate to the trial court’s decision to “vacate” petitioner’s habeas
petition. No other appeals or petitions by petitioner can be located on the Nevada Supreme Court’s docket.

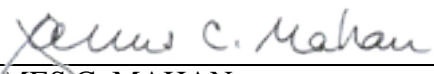
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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, that the clerk shall make informal electronic service upon respondents by adding Nevada Attorney General Adam P. Laxalt as counsel for respondents and directing a notice of electronic filing of this order to his office. No response is required from respondents other than to respond to any orders of a reviewing court.

The clerk of court shall send petitioner a copy of his papers in this action, along with two copies each of the form and instructions for an inmate pauper application and the form for § 2241 habeas petitions.

The clerk of court shall enter final judgment accordingly, dismissing this action without prejudice.

DATED May 25, 2018.



JAMES C. MAHAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE