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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Luis A. Castro,
Petitioner

v.

State of Nevada, *et al.*,
Respondents

Case No.: 2:24-cv-00389-APG-DJA

**Order Directing Service of Petition and
Granting Motion for Appointment of
Counsel**

Luis A. Castro has submitted a *pro se* 28 U.S.C. § 2254 petition for writ of habeas corpus and has now paid the filing fee. ECF Nos. 1-1, 5. I have reviewed the petition pursuant to Habeas Rule 4, and I direct that it be docketed and served on the respondents.

A petition for federal habeas corpus should include all claims for relief of which the petitioner is aware. If the petitioner fails to include such a claim in his petition, he may be forever barred from seeking federal habeas relief upon that claim. *See* 28 U.S.C. §2254(b) (successive petitions). If the petitioner is aware of any claim not included in his petition, he should notify the court of that as soon as possible, perhaps by means of a motion to amend his petition to add the claim.

Castro has also submitted a motion for appointment of counsel. ECF No. 1-3. There is no constitutional right to appointed counsel in a federal habeas corpus proceeding. *Luna v. Kernan*, 784 F.3d 640, 642 (9th Cir. 2015) (citing *Lawrence v. Florida*, 549 U.S. 327, 336–37 (2007)). Whenever the court determines that the interests of justice so require, counsel may be appointed to any financially eligible person who is seeking habeas corpus relief. 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B). “[T]he district court must evaluate the likelihood of success on the merits as well as the ability of the petitioner to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the

1 legal issues involved.” *Weygandt v. Look*, 718 F.2d 952, 954 (9th Cir. 1983). Here, while Castro
2 presents a single claim of ineffective assistance of counsel during guilty plea negotiations, he is
3 also serving a sentence of life without the possibility of parole for first-degree kidnapping
4 resulting in substantial bodily harm. In order to ensure due process, I grant his motion for
5 counsel.

6 I THEREFORE ORDER that the Clerk of Court detach, file, and electronically serve the
7 petition [ECF No. 1-1] on the respondents.

8 I FURTHER ORDER that the Clerk add Aaron D. Ford, Nevada Attorney General, as
9 counsel for the respondents and provide the respondents an electronic copy of all items
10 previously filed in this case by regenerating the Notice of Electronic Filing to the office of the
11 AG only.

12 I FURTHER ORDER that the Clerk detach and file the petitioner’s motion for
13 appointment of counsel. [ECF No. 1-3.]

14 I FURTHER ORDER that the petitioner’s motion for appointment of counsel is granted.

15 I FURTHER ORDER that the Federal Public Defender for the District of Nevada (FPD)
16 is appointed to represent the petitioner.

17 I FURTHER ORDER that the Clerk electronically serve the FPD a copy of this order,
18 together with a copy of the petition for writ of habeas corpus. [ECF No. 1-1.] The FPD has 30
19 days from the date of entry of this order to file a notice of appearance or to indicate to the court
20 its inability to represent the petitioner in these proceedings.


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1 I FURTHER ORDER that after counsel has appeared for the petitioner in this case, the
2 court will issue a scheduling order, which will, among other things, set a deadline for the filing
3 of an amended petition.

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5 DATED this 4th day of June, 2024.

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8 ANDREW P. GORDON
9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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