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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

PAUL L. BROWNING,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
vs.)
)
RENEE BAKER, *et al.*,)
)
Respondents.)
)
_____ /

3:05-cv-0087-RCJ-WGC
ORDER

Introduction

In this capital habeas corpus action, brought by Paul L. Browning, a Nevada prisoner sentenced to death, in an order entered on August 1, 2014 (ECF No. 177), the court denied Browning’s habeas corpus petition. Judgment was entered the same day (ECF No. 178).

On August 29, 2014, Browning filed a “Motion to Reconsider/Amend the Order of August 1, 2014 [ECF NO. 177] or for Relief from the Judgment Entered that Date” (ECF No. 179) (“Motion for Reconsideration”). Respondents filed an opposition to the motion for reconsideration on September 25, 2014 (ECF No. 186). Browning filed a reply in support of the motion for reconsideration on October 6, 2014 (ECF No. 187).

Also on August 29, 2014, Browning filed an “Alternative Motion to Amend 5th Amended Petition and for Discovery Regarding the Constitutionality of Nevada’s Death Penalty System” (ECF

1 No. 181) (“Motion to Amend”). Respondents filed an opposition to the motion to amend on
2 September 25, 2014 (ECF No. 185). Browning filed a reply in support of the motion to amend on
3 October 6, 2014 (ECF No. 188).

4 Then, on October 9, 2014, Browning filed a *pro se* “FRCP 60(b) Motion for Relief”
5 (ECF No. 190) (“*Pro Se* Motion”). Respondents filed an opposition to the *pro se* motion on
6 October 22, 2014 (ECF No. 191). Petitioner filed a *pro se* reply in support of his *pro se* motion on
7 October 30, 2014 (ECF No. 192).

8 The court will deny the motion for reconsideration, the motion to amend, and the *pro se*
9 motion.

10 The Pro Se Motion

11 As has been his practice throughout the litigation of this action, although he is represented by
12 counsel, and despite the motion for reconsideration filed on his behalf by his counsel, Browning has
13 filed, *pro se*, his own motion seeking relief from the judgment entered against him (ECF No. 190).

14 Browning has counsel. Under Local Rule 1A 10-6, “[a] party who has appeared by attorney
15 cannot while so represented appear or act in the case.” The court will deny Browning’s *pro se*
16 motion pursuant to Local Rule 1A 10-6.

17 Motion for Reconsideration

18 Browning’s motion for reconsideration (ECF No. 177) is made pursuant to Federal Rules of
19 Civil Procedure 59(e) and 60(b).

20 “A motion for reconsideration under Rule 59(e) should not be granted, absent highly unusual
21 circumstances, unless the district court is presented with newly discovered evidence, committed clear
22 error, or if there is an intervening change in the controlling law.” *McDowell v. Calderon*, 197 F.3d
23 1253, 1255 (9th Cir.1999) (en banc) (quoting *389 Orange St. Partners v. Arnold*, 179 F.3d 656, 665
24 (9th Cir.1999)). In *McDowell*, the court quoted Charles Alan Wright, *et al.*, Federal Practice and
25 Procedure, as follows:
26

1 Since specific grounds for a motion to amend or alter are not listed in the rule, the
2 district court enjoys considerable discretion in granting or denying the motion.
3 However, reconsideration of a judgment after its entry is an extraordinary remedy
4 which should be used sparingly. There are four basic grounds upon which a Rule
5 59(e) motion may be granted. First, the movant may demonstrate that the motion is
6 necessary to correct *manifest errors of law or fact upon which the judgment is based*.
7 Second, the motion may be granted so that the moving party may present newly
8 discovered or previously unavailable evidence. Third, the motion will be granted if
9 necessary to prevent manifest injustice.... Fourth, a Rule 59(e) motion may be
10 justified by an intervening change in controlling law.

11 *McDowell*, 197 F.3d at 1255 n.1 (quoting 11 Charles Alan Wright et al., Federal Practice and
12 Procedure § 2810.1 (2d ed.1995)) (emphasis in original); *see also Ybarra v. McDaniel*, 656 F.3d
13 984, 998 (9th Cir.2011).

14 Similarly, Under Rule 60(b), relief from a final judgment or order may be granted for the
15 following reasons:

16 (1) mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect; (2) newly discovered
17 evidence ...; (3) fraud ..., misrepresentation, or other misconduct of an adverse party;
18 (4) the judgment is void; (5) the judgment has been satisfied, released, or discharged
19 ... or it is no longer equitable that the judgment should have prospective application;
20 or (6) any other reason justifying relief.

21 Fed.R.Civ.P. 60(b).

22 Browning asserts eight grounds for his motion for reconsideration.

23 (1) Browning's Pro Se Submissions

24 Browning first asserts, in his motion for reconsideration, that the court erred in not
25 considering claims proffered in *pro se* documents, but not included in the fifth amended petition that
26 was before the court. Motion for Reconsideration (ECF No. 179), pp. 3-4.

Regarding the claims proffered by Browning *pro se*, the Court stated in the August 1, 2014,
order:

On October 15, 2013, the court received from Browning, acting *pro se*, a letter
(ECF No. 174), and on January 23, 2014, Browning filed *pro se* motions
(ECF Nos. 175, 176), asserting that his counsel, acting against his wishes, left some
eighteen claims out of the fifth amended petition, and requesting that the court
fashion a procedure for briefing and consideration of those additional claims. Under
Local Rule 1A 10-6, “[a] party who has appeared by attorney cannot while so
represented appear or act in the case.” Moreover, the court finds no basis in
Browning’s *pro se* filings to question the performance of his counsel in not including

1 those eighteen additional claims in the fifth amended petition. The court knows of no
2 authority extending to a habeas petitioner the right to control the choice of claims to
be asserted by counsel on his behalf. The court will deny Browning's *pro se* motions.

3 Order entered August 1, 2014 (ECF No. 177), p. 7 n.3.

4 Browning does not make any showing that the court's treatment of Browning's *pro se*
5 motions was clearly erroneous, or a result of mistake or inadvertence, or that there is any other
6 justification for relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e) or 60(b).

7 (2) Browning's Objection to Treatment of Unexhausted Claims

8 Browning next argues in his motion for reconsideration that the court erred in not ruling upon
9 his objection regarding the court's treatment of his unexhausted claims. *See* Motion for
10 Reconsideration, pp. 4-5; "Petitioner's Objection to Stay and Abeyance and Alternative Notice of
11 Abandonment of Claims Deemed Unexhausted, Per Court Orders (Dkt. 162, 172), Reserving
12 Objections" (ECF No. 173) (objecting to court's treatment of unexhausted claims); Order entered
13 August 1, 2014, p. 7 ("The court notes Browning's objections, and accepts his abandonment of his
14 unexhausted claims.").

15 In his reply in support of his motion for reconsideration, Browning states: "Respondent's
16 agreement that 'Browning does not need any further ruling from the court to preserve his record'
17 [Opposition to Motion for Reconsideration (ECF No. 186), p. 4, line 8] moots the procedural aspect
18 of the Motion." Reply in Support of Motion for Reconsideration (ECF No. 187), p. 3. The court
19 understands this to indicate that Browning abandons his argument that the court erroneously failed to
20 rule on his objection to its treatment of his unexhausted claims.

21 Browning also requests a certificate of appealability in this part of his motion for
22 reconsideration. In this regard, he argues:

23 Alternatively, Petitioner asks that the Court expressly overrule his objections so
24 Petitioner's futility argument can be reviewed on appeal, and that it issue a Certificate
25 of Appealability regarding that ruling and those claims. *See Slack v. McDaniel*, 529
26 U.S. 473, 484, 120 S.Ct. 1595, 1604, 146 L.Ed.2d 542 (2000) ("When the district
court denies a habeas petition on procedural grounds without reaching the prisoner's
underlying constitutional claim, a COA should issue when the prisoner shows, at
least, that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid

1 claim of the denial of a constitutional right and that jurists of reason would find it
2 debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling.”).

3 Motion for Reconsideration, p. 5. Browning refers to the “futility argument” that he made in
4 “Petitioner’s Objection to Stay and Abeyance and Alternative Notice of Abandonment of Claims
5 Deemed Unexhausted, Per Court Orders (Dkt. 162, 172), Reserving Objections” (ECF No. 173), at
6 pages 2 to 4. *See* Motion for Reconsideration, p. 4. That argument was as follows:

7 The Court has said that “it is not clear that [petitioner] is without a remedy in
8 state court” because under Nevada state law a petitioner may, in limited
9 circumstances, overcome a procedural bar to habeas claims.” [Dkt. 172, pg. 3].
10 However, even if such state remedies theoretically exist, the documented history of
11 extraordinarily and unjustifiably prolonged state proceedings in this case and other
12 Nevada capital cases show them to be ineffective and any attempt to exhaust them
13 futile, so a stay pending such proceedings would simply add to the already excessive
14 delay in reviewing Petitioner’s constitutional claims.

15 Without any apparent justification, Mr. Browning’s first state postconviction
16 petition “lingered in the district court for nearly twelve years.” *Browning v. State*, 91
17 P.3d 39, 44n.2 (2004). Because of this, this Court has previously ruled that the
18 extraordinary lengthy delay in state proceedings in this case is an exceptional
19 circumstance militating against federal abstention. [Dkt. 25, pg. 4]. These findings
20 are consistent with *Phillips v. Vasquez*, 56 F.3d 1030, 1035 (9th Cir.1995), in which
21 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that a delay of fifteen years in the state
22 court proceeding was an extraordinary delay, thus rendering the state corrective
23 processes “ineffective” within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. section 2254(b) so that
24 exhaustion is not required.

25 Moreover, seeking remedy in state court would be futile. Mr. Browning’s
26 diligence to raise additional claims to the Nevada Supreme Court to no avail is well
27 documented. During his direct appeal, on December 25, 2002 (Dkt. 59, Exh. 237),
28 Mr. Browning requested of the Nevada Supreme Court thirty (30) days to submit a
29 supplement to the Appellant’s Opening Brief because there existed “several
30 substantive claims of error integral to a full and fair review have been omitted against
31 my specific wishes and consent.” [Dkt. 59, Exh. 237]. The Nevada Supreme Court
32 denied the request without explanation. [Dkt. 59, Exh. 238]. On December 10, 2006,
33 Mr. Browning sent a letter to Chief Justice Rose of the Nevada State Supreme Court
34 requesting that misrepresentations in the state record and the potential conflict of
35 interest of counsel be addressed as quickly as possible. [Dkt. 119-6, pg. 94-98].
36 Chief Justice Rose, who was leaving office the following week, forwarded the letter
37 to his successor as well as the incoming Chief Justice. *Id.* pg. 93. The matter was
38 never addressed.

39 On October 13, 2009, Mr. Browning filed *pro se* an Extraordinary Relief
40 Petition in the Nevada Supreme Court, which included claims since deemed
41 unexhausted by this Court. [Footnote: Compare Court’s April 5, 2013 Order (Dkt.
42 162), which found the certain issues unexhausted with the Extraordinary Relief
43 Petition. Compare *e.g.*, Dkt. 162, Claim 5.46 - 5.49 with Dkt. 119, Exh. 394, Ground

1 7 (*Napue* claim regarding Randall Wolfe); Dkt. 162, Claim 5.50 - 5.51 with Dkt. 119,
2 Exh. 394, Ground 7 (*Napue* claim regarding Vanessa Wolfe); Dkt. 162, Claim 5.52 -
3 5.55 with Dkt. 119, Exh. 394, Ground 5 (*Brady* and *Napue* claim regarding
4 withholding of crime scene sketch); and Dkt. 162, Claim 8 with Dkt. 119, Exh. 394,
5 Ground 1 (premeditation instruction).] Without explanation, the Nevada Supreme
6 Court summarily denied this request too. [Dkt. 119, Exh. 396].

7 In these and other efforts, Mr. Browning has done everything available to him
8 to ask the Nevada courts to address these issues, to no avail. There is no reason to
9 believe that another attempt will produce a different result; and experience shows that
10 any such attempt would add years more of meaningless delay to the nearly three
11 decades Petitioner has been attempting to have his claims fairly heard and ruled upon.
12 *Cf. Custer v. Hill*, 378 F.3d 968, 974-75 (9th Cir. 2004) (describing *Clemmons v.*
13 *Delo*, 124 F.3d 944 (8th Cir. 1997)) (attempt to file pro se in highest state court
14 satisfies exhaustion requirement).

15 For these reasons and those previously submitted, Petitioner respectfully
16 maintains that there are no effective state remedies for him to exhaust, and he declines
17 and objects to any stay of these proceedings pending additional futile efforts to
18 present his claims to the Nevada courts yet again.

19 “Petitioner’s Objection to Stay and Abeyance and Alternative Notice of Abandonment of Claims
20 Deemed Unexhausted, Per Court Orders (Dkt. 162, 172), Reserving Objections” (ECF No. 173),
21 pp. 2-4. The court finds that this argument does not meet the standard for issuance of a certificate of
22 appealability. In this court’s view, jurists of reason would not find debatable the court’s rejection of
23 this argument, and requirement that Browning either seek to exhaust or abandon his unexhausted
24 claims.

25 (3) The Bloody Shoe Prints

26 The motion for reconsideration next takes issue with the court’s ruling, at pages 10 to 17 of
the August 1, 2014, order, regarding Browning’s claims concerning the bloody shoe prints found at
the scene of the murder. Motion for Reconsideration, pp. 6-8. Browning argues from several
different angles that the court erred in its ruling on those claims. *Id.*

There is no showing by Browning that the court’s order and judgment, in this regard, should
be altered or amended because of clear error, mistake, inadvertence, newly discovered evidence, or
any other ground for relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e) or 60(b).

1 The court has granted Browning a certificate of appealability with respect to these claims.
2 *See* Order entered August 1, 2014, pp. 60-61.

3 (4) Deference to State Court Findings Drafted by a Party

4 Browning argues next that, at pages 10 to 17 of the August 1, 2014, order, the court
5 erroneously granted deference to state court findings that were drafted by a party rather than by the
6 state court itself. *See* Motion for Reconsideration, pp. 8-10. In support of this argument, Browning
7 cites *Jefferson v. Upton*, 560 U.S. 284 (2010), a case in which pre-AEDPA law was applied, and
8 which is, therefore, plainly inapposite. *See id.* at 9-10; *see also Jefferson*, 560 U.S. at 289 (“This
9 habeas application was filed prior to the enactment of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty
10 Act of 1996 and is therefore governed by federal habeas law as it existed prior to that point.”).

11 Browning did not make this argument in his briefing of the claims in the fifth amended
12 petition, and it is not based on any intervening legal precedent. Moreover, the court finds
13 Browning’s argument here to be wholly without merit. Browning does not show that factual
14 findings must be drafted by the court in order to receive the deference mandated by the AEDPA.
15 The court’s ruling was not a result of clear error, mistake, or inadvertence, and there is no showing of
16 any ground for relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e) or 60(b).

17 (5) The Blood on the Jacket

18 Next, Browning argues that the court erred, at pages 17 to 19 of its August 1, 2014, order,
19 in denying his claims regarding blood found on a jacket. *See* Motion for Reconsideration, pp. 10-11.
20 Here again, Browning does not show that the court’s order and judgment should be altered or
21 amended because of mistake, inadvertence, newly discovered evidence, clear error, or any other
22 ground for relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e) or 60(b).

23 (6) Claim 2

24 Browning next argues that the court “misconceived” Nevada law in ruling on Claim 2. *See*
25 Motion for Reconsideration, pp. 11-15.

26 The Court’s ruling on Claim 2 was as follows:

1 In Claim 2, Browning makes the following claim:

2 The prosecution improperly sought, and the trial court
3 improperly granted, a continuance which caused the loss of Mr.
4 Browning's primary defense witness, Ms. Marsha Gaylord. The
5 continuance was granted in violation of the procedures and intended
6 protections dictated by the holdings in *Hill v. Sheriff*, 85 Nev. 234, 452
7 P.2d 918 (Nev. 1969), *Bustos v. Sheriff*, 87 Nev. 622, 491 P.2d 1279
8 (Nev. 1971), and the Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 14 (E.D.C.R.
9 14). This violation of Mr. Browning's state guaranteed rights denied
10 him due process and equal protection in violation of his rights under
11 the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment.

12 Fifth Amended Petition, p. 24. Browning claims that the prosecution requested and
13 received a continuance of the trial date, on grounds that they had made a calendaring
14 error and that two witnesses, Randall and Vanessa Wolfe, might be unavailable on the
15 trial date as set, but did not provide an affidavit, or sworn testimony, regarding the
16 need for the continuance, as was allegedly required under *Hill v. Sheriff*, 85 Nev. 234,
17 452 P.2d 918 (1969); *Bustos v. Sheriff*, 87 Nev. 622, 491 P.2d 1279 (1971); and
18 Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 14. *Id.* at 24-31. Browning claims that the failure
19 of the trial court to enforce the requirement of *Hill*, *Bustos*, and Eighth Judicial
20 District Court Rule 14, violated his federal constitutional rights to due process of law
21 and equal protection of the laws. *Id.* Browning raised this claim -- albeit obliquely --
22 in the Nevada Supreme Court on the appeal in his state habeas action. *See*
23 Appellant's Opening Brief, Exhibit 232, pp. 70-78 (ECF No. 59-175, pp. 23-31). The
24 Nevada Supreme Court denied the claim without any discussion. *See Browning*, 120
25 Nev. at 371-72, 91 P.3d at 56. This court finds the claim to be meritless. Browning
26 cites no authority finding a liberty interest, giving rise to a federal constitutional due
process or equal protection right, arising from any procedural rules like the alleged
requirement of *Hill*, *Bustos*, and Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 14. Furthermore,
a reading of *Hill* and *Bustos*, and the other Nevada cases cited by Browning in support
of the state-law requirement on which his claim is grounded, reveals that none of
those cases involve the continuance of the felony trial of an adult. *Hill*, *Bustos*, *Clark*
v. Sheriff, 94 Nev. 364, 580 P.2d 472 (1978), *Reason v. Sheriff*, 94 Nev. 300, 579
P.2d 781 (1978), *Streitenberger v. Sheriff*, 93 Nev. 689, 572 P.2d 931 (1977), *Salas v.*
Sheriff, 91 Nev. 802, 543 P.2d 1343 (1975), *McNair v. Sheriff*, 89 Nev. 434, 514 P.2d
1175 (1973), *Broadhead v. Sheriff*, 87 Nev. 219, 484 P.2d 1092 (1971), and *Maes v.*
Sheriff, 86 Nev. 317, 468 P.2d 332 (1970), involved continuances of preliminary
hearings; *Scott E. v. State*, 113 Nev. 234, 931 P.2d 1370 (1997), involved the
continuance of a juvenile proceeding. As for Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 14,
Browning has not provided the text of any such Eighth Judicial District Court Rule as
it appeared in 1986, and this court has been unable to determine that any such rule
existed. Moreover, five days after the continuance was granted, and well before the
new trial date, with their response to Browning's motion to dismiss on the ground of
the alleged improper continuance, the prosecution did submit affidavits explaining the
need for the continuance, including information regarding the question of the
availability of the Wolfes on the vacated trial date. *See* Affidavits of Bill A. Berrett,
Dan M. Seaton, and Bob Leonard, Exhibit 15 (ECF No. 59-13, pp. 7-12). Therefore,
in this court's view, Browning has not established that he had a liberty interest, giving
rise to federal constitutional rights, with respect to the procedure for the continuance
of his trial, and, even if he could establish the existence such a liberty interest,
Browning has not shown that it was violated.

1 Order entered August 1, 2014, pp. 32-34. Browning does not show this ruling to be clearly
2 erroneous, or that the court's order and judgment should be altered or amended because of mistake,
3 inadvertence, newly discovered evidence, or any other ground for relief under Federal Rule of Civil
4 Procedure 59(e) or 60(b).

5 (7) Claim 3

6 Next, Browning argues that the court "misapplies the law and facts in denying Claim Three."
7 Motion for Reconsideration, p. 16.

8 The Court's ruling on Claim 3 was as follows:

9 In Claim 3, Browning claims a violation of his rights under the Sixth
10 Amendment, as follows:

11 The prosecution, in bad faith, improperly sought a continuance
12 of Mr. Browning's trial by a ruse. The trial court improperly granted
13 the prosecution's request, over defense objection. A key defense
14 witness was available and willing to testify at the trial; however,
because of the improper continuance the witness became unavailable,
denying Mr. Browning his right to compel witnesses and present
evidence at trial, guaranteed by the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments.

15 Fifth Amended Petition, p. 32. The court construes this as a claim of violation of
16 Browning's Sixth Amendment right to a speedy trial. *See* Order entered April 5, 2013
17 (ECF No. 162), p. 13; *see also* Reply, p. 65. Browning raised this claim on his direct
18 appeal. *See* Appellant's Opening Brief, Exhibit 84, pp. 8-14 (ECF No. 59-59, p. 15 -
19 ECF No. 59-60, p. 2); Appellant's Supplemental Opening Brief, Exhibit 87, pp. 1-10
(ECF No. 59-61, pp. 10-20). The Nevada Supreme Court ruled as follows:

20 On appeal, Browning contends that by delaying his trial
21 twenty-eight days, the district court violated his constitutional right to
22 a speedy trial. We disagree.

23 Although Browning promptly invoked his right to a speedy
24 trial, under the circumstances of this case, the mere twenty-eight day
25 delay is insufficient to justify dismissal of the charges against him.
26 Due to the severity of the crimes charged, we will tolerate a longer
delay than we might for a crime of less egregious proportions. *See*
Barker v. Wingo, 407 U.S. 514, 92 S.Ct. 2182, 33 L.Ed.2d 101 (1972).
In addition, the reasons underlying the delay do not justify Browning's
release; namely, the deputy district attorney's honest, but negligent,
mistake in transcribing the appropriate trial date and the professed
inability to locate key prosecution witnesses prior to trial do not reveal
an improper motive by the state in requesting the delay. Thus, this is
not a case involving a deliberate attempt to delay trial in order to
hamper the defense, and therefore we need not be so concerned with
policing the state's activity. *See Barker*, 407 U.S. at 531, 92 S.Ct. at

1 2192. Moreover, Browning has not reasonably identified how the
2 twenty-eight day delay has prejudiced his defense. In light of the
3 overwhelming evidence of guilt presented against him at trial, it is
 clear that any alleged prejudice would not rise to the level justifying
 dismissal of the charged crimes.

4 *Browning*, 104 Nev. at 271, 757 P.2d at 352. This court affords this ruling by the
5 Nevada Supreme Court the deference mandated by 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d), and finds it
6 to be reasonable. Browning concedes that the Nevada Supreme Court applied the
7 correct United States Supreme Court precedent, *Barker v. Wingo*, 407 U.S. 514
8 (1972), but argues that the court unreasonably applied *Barker*. See Reply, pp. 65-68.
9 In *Barker*, the Court explained that in addressing a claimed violation of the Sixth
10 Amendment right to a speedy trial, courts are to apply a balancing test, and the Court
11 identified four factors to be considered: (1) the length of the delay, (2) the reason for
12 the delay, (3) the defendant’s assertion of the right, and (4) prejudice to the defendant.
13 *Barker*, 407 U.S. at 530. The *Barker* Court explained further:

14 We regard none of the four factors identified above as either a
15 necessary or sufficient condition to the finding of a deprivation of the
16 right of speedy trial. Rather, they are related factors and must be
17 considered together with such other circumstances as may be relevant.
18 In sum, these factors have no talismanic qualities; courts must still
19 engage in a difficult and sensitive balancing process.

20 *Barker*, 407 U.S. at 533.

21 Asserting that “there is no ‘severity of the crime’ prong in the *Barker* test,”
22 Browning argues that the Nevada Supreme Court erroneously considered the severity
23 of the crime in this case. See Reply, p. 66. That argument is meritless. While it is
24 true that there is no separate “severity of the crime prong” in the *Barker* test, the
25 Court in *Barker* made clear that the severity of the crime is to be taken into
26 consideration with respect to the length of the delay. See *Barker*, 407 U.S. at 531
 (“[B]ecause of the imprecision of the right to speedy trial, the length of delay that will
 provoke such an inquiry is necessarily dependent upon the peculiar circumstances of
 the case. To take but one example, the delay that can be tolerated for an ordinary
 street crime is considerably less than for a serious, complex conspiracy charge.”); see
 also *United States v. Tanh Huu Lam*, 251 F.3d 852, 856-57 (9th Cir.2001). In this
 case, the delay -- 28 days -- was relatively short considering the severity of the crime -
 - capital first-degree murder.

 Browning also takes issue with the Nevada Supreme Court’s findings
 regarding the reason for the delay:

 In addition, the reasons underlying the delay do not justify
 Browning’s release; namely, the deputy district attorney’s honest, but
 negligent, mistake in transcribing the appropriate trial date and the
 professed inability to locate key prosecution witnesses prior to trial do
 not reveal an improper motive by the state in requesting the delay.
 Thus, this is not a case involving a deliberate attempt to delay trial in
 order to hamper the defense, and therefore we need not be so
 concerned with policing the state’s activity.

1 *Browning*, 104 Nev. at 271, 757 P.2d at 352. Browning has not, however, shown
2 those findings to be unreasonable in light of the evidence. *See, e.g.*, Affidavits of Bill
A. Berrett, Dan M. Seaton, and Bob Leonard, Exhibit 15 (ECF No. 59-13, pp. 7-12).

3 Finally, Browning argues that the Nevada Supreme Court, in ruling that
4 “Browning has not reasonably identified how the twenty-eight day delay has
5 prejudiced his defense,” did not give adequate weight to the prejudice that he claims
6 as a result of the delay. Browning claims that he lost Marsha Gaylord as a witness as
7 a result of the delay, and she would have provided exonerating testimony if she had
8 been available. *See Reply*, pp. 67-68. However, while the claimed prejudice to the
9 defense is a factor to be considered, it is not controlling. *See Barker*, 407 U.S. at 533.
10 And, moreover, while Browning and his trial counsel have stated what they claim
11 Gaylord’s testimony would be, Gaylord did not, in any post-trial proceeding, testify,
12 or otherwise provide any indication how she would testify.

13 In sum, this Court finds that the Nevada Supreme Court’s application of the
14 *Barker* test, and its denial of the claim Browning asserts in Claim 3, was not
15 objectively unreasonable.

16 Order entered August 1, 2014, pp. 34-36.

17 Browning makes no showing that this ruling was clearly erroneous, or that the court’s order
18 and judgment should be altered or amended because of mistake, inadvertence, newly discovered
19 evidence, or any other ground for relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e) or 60(b).

20 (8) New Eighth Amendment Claim

21 Next, Browning asserts that the court should alter or amend the judgment “to consider the
22 broader holding of the recent decision in [*Jones v. Chappell*, ___ F.Supp.2d ___, 2014 WL 3567365
23 (C.D.Cal. July 16, 2014)], and vacate Petitioner’s death sentence on the basis of the constitutional
24 principles set forth and applied therein.” Motion for Reconsideration, p. 19. It appears that
25 Browning’s argument is that Nevada’s death penalty system violates the Eighth Amendment, under
26 *Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 23 (1972). *See Motion for Reconsideration*, pp. 19-25, *citing Jones v.*
Chappell. The court is unaware of Browning ever before making any such Eighth Amendment claim
in this action; indeed, Browning appears to admit that he has not. *See Motion for Reconsideration*, p.
25, lines 1-2.

Browning’s request, that the court alter its August 1, 2014, order and judgment to consider
whether Nevada’s death penalty system is unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment, as the

1 United States District Court for the Central District of California did with regard to California's
2 death penalty system, is frivolous. There is no showing whether any such claim would be
3 procedurally viable, taking into consideration, for example, the statute of limitations, the exhaustion
4 requirement, or the procedural default doctrine. There is no showing by Browning that the court's
5 failure to rule on such a claim was because of mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect.
6 *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(1). There is no showing by Browning that this new claim is based on
7 newly discovered or previously unavailable evidence. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(2); *McDowell*, 197
8 F.3d at 1255 n.1. And, the ruling of a federal district court in California (sixteen days before the
9 entry of judgment in this case) regarding California's death penalty system, is not "an intervening
10 change in the controlling law." *See McDowell*, 197 F.3d at 1255 n.1.

11 Motion to Amend

12 Browning also filed a motion to amend, in the alternative to his motion for reconsideration,
13 requesting leave of court, under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15, to amend his habeas petition to
14 include his new claim that Nevada's death penalty system violates the Eighth Amendment under
15 *Furman*. *See* Motion to Amend, pp. 3-4. In the motion to amend, Browning also requests leave of
16 court to conduct discovery regarding his new claim. *Id.*

17 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a) governs amendment of pleadings "before trial;"
18 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(b) governs amendment of pleadings "during and after trial," but
19 concerns only amendments where objections were made at trial to the effect that evidence was not
20 within issues raised in the pleadings, and amendments where issues not raised in the pleadings are
21 tried upon the parties' express or implied consent. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 15. None of these situations
22 apply here.

23 Furthermore, as is discussed above, with respect to Browning's motion for reconsideration,
24 Browning's attempt to assert his new claim at this point is without merit. There is no showing that
25 any such claim would be procedurally viable; there is no showing of mistake, inadvertence, surprise,
26 or excusable neglect; there is no showing that this new claim is based on newly discovered or

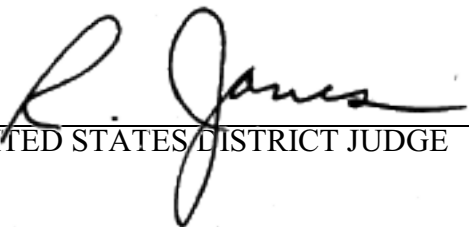
1 previously unavailable evidence; and there is no showing that the claim is based on an intervening
2 change in controlling law. The motion to amend will be denied. And, as the court finds the
3 assertion of the new claim at this time to be wholly unjustified, discovery with respect to such claim,
4 under Rule 6 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts, is
5 plainly unwarranted.

6 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that petitioner’s “Motion to Reconsider/Amend the Order
7 of August 1, 2014 [ECF No. 177] or for Relief from the Judgment Entered That Date [ECF No.
8 178]” (ECF No. 179), is **DENIED**.

9 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that petitioner’s “Alternative Motion to Amend 5th Amended
10 Petition and for Discovery Regarding the Constitutionality of Nevada’s Death Penalty System” (ECF
11 No. 181) is **DENIED**.

12 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that petitioner’s *pro se* “FRCP 60(b) Motion for Relief”
13 (ECF No. 190) is **DENIED**.

14 Dated this 13th day of January, 2015.

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18 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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