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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

ROBERT W. ELLIOTT,

*Petitioner,*

vs.

J. BENEDETTI, *et al.*,

*Respondents.*

3:09-cv-00265-LRH-RAM

ORDER

This habeas matter under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 comes before the Court for initial review of the amended petition (#10) under Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases (the “Habeas Rules”) and on petitioner’s motion (#9) for appointment of counsel.

On the motion for appointment of counsel, the Sixth Amendment right to counsel does not apply in habeas corpus actions. *See Knaubert v. Goldsmith*, 791 F.2d 722, 728 (9th Cir. 1986). However, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B) authorizes a district court to appoint counsel to represent a financially eligible habeas petitioner whenever “the court determines that the interests of justice so require.” The decision to appoint counsel lies within the discretion of the court; and, absent an order for an evidentiary hearing, appointment is mandatory only when the circumstances of a particular case indicate that appointed counsel is necessary to prevent a due process violation. *See, e.g., Chaney v. Lewis*, 801 F.2d 1191, 1196 (9th Cir. 1986); *Eskridge v. Rhay*, 345 F.2d 778, 782 (9th Cir. 1965).

At the outset, petitioner has not demonstrated that he is financially eligible for appointment of counsel. He has not applied for pauper status or otherwise demonstrated a financial inability to retain counsel.

1           In any event, having reviewed the request for counsel, the pleadings, and the remaining papers  
2 on file, the Court finds that the interests of justice do not require that counsel be appointed. Petitioner  
3 has demonstrated his ability to adequately articulate his claims and arguments. Petitioner refers in his  
4 counsel motion to allegedly having experienced transient ischemic attacks in March 2009 and to side-  
5 effects from a muscle relaxer allegedly prescribed for such condition. However, petitioner has filed  
6 voluminous pleadings in this matter notwithstanding any such condition and medication. On the record  
7 and showing made, petitioner has not established that the interests of justice require the appointment  
8 of counsel due to any such condition or medication or the combination thereof, even if, *arguendo*,  
9 petitioner otherwise is financially eligible for appointment of counsel.

10           Following upon the Court's review of the amended petition, a response will be directed, as  
11 further specified below.

12           IT THEREFORE IS ORDERED that the Clerk of Court shall add Attorney General Catherine  
13 Cortez Masto (listed under Cortez) as counsel for respondents and shall make informal electronic  
14 service of this order upon respondents by directing a notice of electronic filing to her.

15           IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that, taking into account the claims and issues presented and the  
16 records required to be filed by this order, respondents shall have seventy-five (75) days from entry of  
17 this order within which to answer, or otherwise respond to, the amended petition, including by motion  
18 to dismiss. Any response shall comply with the remaining provisions below, which are tailored to this  
19 particular case based upon the Court's screening and which are entered pursuant to Habeas Rule 4.

20           IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that, given the potential issues presented, respondents shall present  
21 their defenses in this case in accordance with the following order:

- 22           (1) any exhaustion issues and timeliness or relation back issues – if any – raised by  
23 respondents shall be raised together first in a separate motion to dismiss without  
24 other defenses;
- 25           (2) if no such issues are raised or following the resolution of same, all other  
26 procedural defenses – if any – raised by the respondents, including procedural  
27 default and failure to state a claim, to the extent applicable, shall be raised  
28 together in a single additional motion to dismiss; and



- 1 (l) the presentence investigation report (which may be filed under seal);
- 2 (m) the sentencing transcript, if previously transcribed;
- 3 (n) the judgment of conviction and any amendments thereto;
- 4 (o) the notice of appeal;
- 5 (p) all correspondence, motions, and orders received or filed in the state supreme
- 6 court related to counsel and representation issues, to the extent available;
- 7 (q) the briefing and/or fast track statements on direct appeal;
- 8 (r) the state supreme court's order of affirmance and remittitur;
- 9 (s) all papers presenting petitioner's state post-conviction claims in the district court;
- 10 (t) the findings, conclusions and order of the district court;
- 11 (u) all papers presenting petitioner's claims on the post-conviction appeal; and
- 12 (v) the state supreme court's order of affirmance and remittitur.

13 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that any additional exhibits filed by the respondents shall be filed  
14 with a separate index of exhibits identifying the exhibits by number or letter. The CM/ECF attachments  
15 that are filed further shall be identified by the number or numbers (or letter or letters) of the exhibits  
16 in the attachment. The purpose of this provision is so that the Court, the parties, and any reviewing  
17 court thereafter will be able to quickly determine from the face of the electronic docket sheet which  
18 exhibits are filed in which attachments.

19 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that counsel additionally shall send a courtesy copy hard copy of  
20 the exhibits to, for this case, the Las Vegas Clerk's Office, with a cover sheet that clearly states  
21 "Courtesy Copy – To Staff Attorney."

22 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that petitioner shall have thirty (30) days from service of the  
23 answer, motion to dismiss, or other response to file a reply or opposition. The deadlines established  
24 herein shall override any shorter deadlines in any form order issued under the *Klinge* decision.

25 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that petitioner's motion (#9) for appointment of counsel is  
26 DENIED.

27 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that henceforth, petitioner shall serve upon respondents or, if  
28 appearance has been entered by counsel, upon the individual deputy attorney general identified in the

1 notice of appearance, a copy of every pleading, motion or other document submitted for consideration  
2 by the Court. Petitioner shall include with the original paper submitted for filing a certificate stating  
3 the date that a true and correct copy of the document was mailed to respondents or counsel for  
4 respondents. If counsel has entered a notice of appearance, petitioner shall direct service to the  
5 individual attorney named in the notice of appearance, at the address stated therein. The Court may  
6 disregard any paper received by a district judge or magistrate judge which has not been filed with the  
7 Clerk, and any paper received by a district judge, magistrate judge or the Clerk which fails to include  
8 an appropriate certificate of service.

9 DATED this 19th day of April, 2010.



12 LARRY R. HICKS  
13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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