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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

CASTRO V. DECASTRO,

Petitioner,

vs.

ROBERT LEGRAND, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Case No. 3:14-cv-00529-RCJ-WGC

**ORDER**

Castro V. DeCastro, a Nevada prisoner, has submitted an application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF # 1) and a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (ECF #1-1). The court has reviewed the petition pursuant to Habeas Rule 4, and the petition shall be docketed and served upon the respondents.

A petition for federal habeas corpus should include all claims for relief of which petitioner is aware. If 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 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. Specifically, the court notes that petitioner sets forth nine grounds in his petition. At the end of the nine grounds, he states “also, see

1 attached: direct appeal and postconviction habeas for additional grounds and arguments” (#1-1, p. 19).  
2 Petitioner is expressly advised that this vague reference to “additional grounds” does not state any  
3 additional grounds in this petition. Currently before the court are the nine grounds set forth on pages  
4 3-19 of the petition. No other grounds or arguments are before the court. If petitioner seeks to include  
5 any other grounds, he shall take action as described above as soon as possible.

6 Also before the court is petitioner’s motion for the appointment of counsel (ECF #1-4). There  
7 is no constitutional right to appointed counsel for a federal habeas corpus proceeding. *Pennsylvania*  
8 *v. Finley*, 481 U.S. 551, 555 (1987); *Bonin v. Vasquez*, 999 F.2d 425, 428 (9th Cir.1993). The decision  
9 to appoint counsel is generally discretionary. *Chaney v. Lewis*, 801 F.2d 1191, 1196 (9th Cir.1986),  
10 cert. denied, 481 U.S. 1023 (1987); *Bashor v. Risley*, 730 F.2d 1228, 1234 (9th Cir.), cert. denied, 469  
11 U.S. 838 (1984). However, counsel must be appointed if the complexities of the case are such that  
12 denial of counsel would amount to a denial of due process, and where the petitioner is a person of such  
13 limited education as to be incapable of fairly presenting his claims. *See Chaney*, 801 F.2d at 1196; *see*  
14 *also Hawkins v. Bennett*, 423 F.2d 948 (8th Cir.1970). The petition on file in this action appears  
15 sufficiently clear in presenting the issues that petitioner wishes to raise, and the legal issues do not  
16 appear to be particularly complex; therefore, counsel is not justified. Petitioner’s motion is denied.

17 **IT THEREFORE IS ORDERED** that petitioner’s application to proceed *in forma pauperis*  
18 (ECF #1) is **GRANTED**.

19 **IT FURTHER IS ORDERED** that the Clerk shall file and **ELECTRONICALLY SERVE**  
20 the petition (ECF #1-1) on the respondents.

21 **IT FURTHER IS ORDERED** that respondents shall file a response to the petition, including  
22 potentially by motion to dismiss, within **ninety (90) days** of service of the petition, with any requests  
23 for relief by petitioner by motion otherwise being subject to the normal briefing schedule under the local  
24 rules. **Any response filed shall comply with the remaining provisions below, which are entered**  
25 **pursuant to Habeas Rule 4.**

26 **IT FURTHER IS ORDERED** that any procedural defenses raised by respondents in this case  
27 shall be raised together in a single consolidated motion to dismiss. In other words, the court does not  
28 wish to address any procedural defenses raised herein either in *seriatum* fashion in multiple successive

1 motions to dismiss or embedded in the answer. Procedural defenses omitted from such motion to  
2 dismiss will be subject to potential waiver. Respondents shall not file a response in this case that  
3 consolidates their procedural defenses, if any, with their response on the merits, except pursuant to 28  
4 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(2) as to any unexhausted claims clearly lacking merit. If respondents do seek  
5 dismissal of unexhausted claims under § 2254(b)(2): (a) they shall do so within the single motion to  
6 dismiss **not** in the answer; and (b) they shall specifically direct their argument to the standard for  
7 dismissal under § 2254(b)(2) set forth in *Cassett v. Stewart*, 406 F.3d 614, 623-24 (9th Cir. 2005). In  
8 short, no procedural defenses, including exhaustion, shall be included with the merits in an answer. All  
9 procedural defenses, including exhaustion, instead must be raised by motion to dismiss.

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

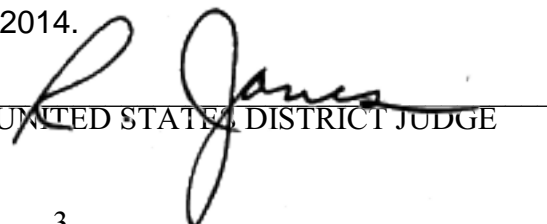
13 **IT FURTHER IS ORDERED** that petitioner shall have **thirty (30) days** from service of the  
14 answer, motion to dismiss, or other response to file a reply or opposition, with any other requests for  
15 relief by respondents by motion otherwise being subject to the normal briefing schedule under the local  
16 rules.

17 **IT FURTHER IS ORDERED** that any additional state court record exhibits filed herein by  
18 either petitioner or respondents shall be filed with a separate index of exhibits identifying the exhibits  
19 by number. The CM/ECF attachments that are filed further shall be identified by the number or  
20 numbers of the exhibits in the attachment. The hard copy of any additional state court record exhibits  
21 shall be forwarded – for this case – to the staff attorneys in Reno.

22 **IT FURTHER IS ORDERED** that the Clerk shall detach and file the motion for appointment  
23 of counsel (ECF #1-4).

24 **IT FURTHER IS ORDERED** that petitioner’s motion for appointment of counsel (ECF #1-4)  
25 is **DENIED**.

26 Dated: This 19th day of November, 2014.

27   
28 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE