

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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HERMAN ROBINSON,

Petitioner,

v.

9:19-CV-0777  
(GTS)

EARL BELL, Superintendent,

Respondent.

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APPEARANCES:

OF COUNSEL:

HERMAN ROBINSON

Petitioner pro se

15-A-2163

Clinton Correctional Facility

P.O. Box 2000

Dannemora, New York 12929

HON. LETITIA JAMES

Attorney for Respondent

Office of the Attorney General

28 Liberty Street

New York, New York 10005

DENNIS A. RAMBAUD

Assistant Attorney General

GLENN T. SUDDABY

Chief United States District Judge

**DECISION and ORDER**

Petitioner Herman Robinson sought federal habeas relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Dkt. No. 1, Petition ("Pet."); Dkt. No. 4, IFP Application. Respondent filed an opposition to the petition. Dkt. No. 18, Response; Dkt. No. 19, Memorandum of Law in Opposition; Dkt. No. 20, State Court Records; Dkt. No. 21, State Court Transcripts. Petitioner was then provided with the opportunity to file a reply to respondent's opposition to his petition. Dkt. No. 22, Text Order dated 02/19/20.

Instead, petitioner filed a letter motion with the Court requesting "some time to properly file a motion to stay [his] petition so that [he] may exhaust the claims the respondent deemed unexhausted." Dkt. No. 23. Additionally, because petitioner lacks any formal legal education or training, petitioner sought "any information [the Court] c[ould] provide as to the format for drawing up a motion to stay[.]" *Id.*

Petitioner is advised that the Court and Clerk's Office do not provide legal assistance or advice. Accordingly, to the extent that Petitioner seeks such assistance or advice, his request is denied. However, the Clerk of the Court can provide Petitioner with pertinent procedural information. Further, the Court can outline the requirements for a motion to stay.

Any motion to stay must be filed in compliance with the Local Rules of Practice. See N.D.N.Y.L.R. 7.1 (outlining requirements for motion practice). When a district court is presented with a "mixed petition" containing both exhausted and unexhausted claims, it may dismiss the petition without prejudice or retain jurisdiction over the petition and stay further proceedings pending exhaustion of state remedies. *Rhines v. Weber*, 544 U.S. 269, 275-76 (2005). This "stay and abeyance" procedure should be "available only in limited circumstances" where the petitioner can show both (1) "good cause" for failing to "exhaust his claims first in state court" and (2) that his unexhausted claims are not "plainly meritless." *Id.* at 277.

**WHEREFORE**, it is

**ORDERED** that to the extent petitioner seeks legal assistance or advice, Dkt. No. 23, that request is **DENIED**; and it is further

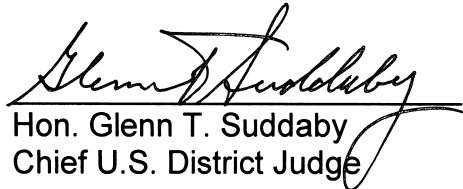
**ORDERED** that the Clerk respectfully provide petitioner with a copy of this District's

Pro Se Manual and Local Rules; and it is further

**ORDERED** that petitioner has thirty (30) days to either file a motion to stay, in compliance with the Local Rules, or file a reply to respondent's answer in opposition to the pending petition. If petitioner chooses not to file either a motion to stay or a reply, then upon the expiration of the thirty (30) days, the Clerk shall forward the file to the Court for further review; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Clerk serve a copy of this Decision and Order upon petitioner in accordance with the Local Rules.

Date: March 24, 2020  
Syracuse, New York

  
Hon. Glenn T. Suddaby  
Chief U.S. District Judge