

current standing serves as a legal basis for sealing petitioner's financial affidavit. Rather, the Commonwealth's lack of standing to object to the appointment of federal counsel in this case is not a reason to seal such a document. Further, the financial affidavit does not contain confidential or sensitive information that, should it remain unsealed, would prejudice petitioner in this case. (See Doc. 2-3.) The court does not foresee damaging results should petitioner's financial affidavit remain public.

Federal district courts are presumptively open courts containing, for the majority, open records in civil matters. Federal judges have discretion to determine what is in public view and what is not. In this case, petitioner's state criminal case was not sealed. See Commonwealth v. Hicks, CP-45-CR-0000391-2008 (Monroe Cnty. Comm. Pl. 2008). The court does not see any reason to now keep records such as those in support of petitioner's *in forma pauperis* status confidential in this subsequent civil proceeding brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

ACCORDINGLY, this 28th day of November, 2017, upon consideration of the motion for leave to file document *ex parte* and under seal (Doc. 2), it is hereby ORDERED that the motion (Doc. 2) is DENIED.

/S/ CHRISTOPHER C. CONNER
Christopher C. Conner, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Middle District of Pennsylvania