Mullis v. Thaler Doc. 108

United States District Court Southern District of Texas

## **ENTERED**

September 24, 2018 David J. Bradlev. Clerk

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS GALVESTON DIVISION

TRAVIS JAMES MULLIS,

Petitioner,

V.

CIVIL ACTION NO. G-13-121

LORIE DAVIS, Director, Texas Department \( \)

of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions \( \)

Division,

Respondent.

## **ORDER**

On July 23, 2018, Mullis filed a Pro-Se Motion to Waive Appeals and Terminate Counsel. (Docket Entry No. 105). In a telephonic hearing held on September 12, 2018, the Court questioned Mullis and found that it is appropriate to begin the process necessary to determine his competency to waive federal review and dismiss his attorneys. The Court therefore, **ORDERS** that Mullis be examined by:

Dr. Timothy James Proctor 11882 Greenville Avenue, Suite 107 Dallas, Texas 75243 (972) 644-8686 (Telephone) (972) 644-8688 (Fax)

Dr. Proctor will determine whether Mullis is competent to waive federal habeas review, evaluating "whether he has capacity to appreciate his position and make a rational choice with respect to continuing or abandoning further litigation or on the other hand whether he is suffering from a mental disease, disorder, or defect which may

substantially affect his capacity in the premises." Lopez v. Stephens, 783 F.3d 524, 525

(5th Cir. 2015)

The Court **ORDERS** that the warden of the Polunsky Unit, or whosoever may

have custody of Mullis, shall permit Dr. Proctor to visit and examine Mullis for the

purpose of this competency evaluation.

The Court **ORDERS** the parties to provide Dr. Proctor any necessary records.

Dr. Proctor shall, within a reasonable time of conducting the examination

discussed above, provide all parties and the Court with a written report describing his

findings upon examination of Mullis.

A court-appointed expert "is entitled to a reasonable compensation." FED. R.

EVID. 706(c). A district court may tax the "compensation of court appointed experts" as

costs pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1920(6). The Court assigns the cost for Dr. Proctor's

evaluation to be shared equally between the parties. Dr. Proctor may bill each party for

half the cost of his services.

The Clerk will enter this Order and send copies to the attorneys of record, Dr.

Timothy James Proctor. and Travis James Mullis, TDCJ Number 999563, Allan B.

Polunsky Unit, 3872 FM 350 South, Livingston, TX 77351.

SIGNED at Galveston, Texas, this 24th day of September, 2018.

George C. Hanks Jr.

United States District Judge