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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

JEREMIAH LANCE WINCHESTER,

Petitioner,

v.

OBENLAND, et al.,

Respondents.

Case No. C17-1136-RSL-JPD

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO  
FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR  
REVIEW

Petitioner has filed a petition for federal habeas relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, and a motion to appoint counsel. While there is no constitutional right to appointment of counsel in actions brought under § 2254, the Court may exercise its discretion to appoint counsel for a financially eligible individual where the “interests of justice so require.” 18 U.S.C. § 3006A; *see also Weygardt v. Look*, 718 F.2d 952 (9th Cir. 1983). It appears from the record that appointment of counsel may be warranted in the instant action. The Court, however, has insufficient information at present to determine whether the interests of justice, in fact, require such an appointment. Accordingly, the Court ORDERS as follows:

- (1) This matter is referred to the Office of the Federal Public Defender for review.

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO  
FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR  
REVIEW - 1

