

1
2
3
4
5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
7 AT TACOMA

8 WILLIAM WOMACK,

Petitioner,

9 v.

10 DONALD HOLBROOK,

11 Respondent.

No. C17-5822-BHS-TLF

**ORDER ON MOTION FOR LEAVE TO
CONDUCT DISCOVERY**

12 The petitioner, William Womack, moves the Court for an order allowing him to conduct
13 discovery under Rules 5 and 6 of the Federal Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases and extend
14 the time permitted for him to file a reply to the response brief. Dkt. 12. In a separate order, the
15 Court grants Mr. Womack additional time to submit his reply arguments by allowing him to
16 include them in supplemental briefing concerning exhaustion of state remedies, due in June. Dkt.
17 15.

18
19 Petitioner Womack fails to show that either expanding the record, or allowing the parties
20 to conduct discovery, would be authorized by the Federal Rules Governing Section 2254 at this
21 time. Therefore, Womack's request to conduct discovery will be denied.

22
23 **DISCUSSION**

24 Rule 6(a) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases provides that a judge may, for good
25 cause, authorize a party to conduct discovery under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and
26 may limit the extent of discovery. 28 U.S.C. § 2254 Rule 6(a).

ORDER - 1

1 In addition, Rule 5(c) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases states:

2 . . . The respondent must attach to the answer parts of the transcript that the
3 respondent considers relevant. The judge may order that the respondent furnish
4 other parts of existing transcripts or that parts of untranscribed recordings be
5 transcribed and furnished. If a transcript cannot be obtained, the respondent may
6 submit a narrative summary of the evidence.

7 28 U.S.C. § 2254 Rule 5(c).

8 However, “[a] habeas petitioner, unlike the usual civil litigant in federal court, is not
9 entitled to discovery as a matter of ordinary course.” *Bracy v. Gramley*, 520 U.S. 899, 904
10 (1997). Discovery is properly limited in habeas corpus because it “is not the trial itself but a
11 collateral attack upon a standing conviction.” *Austad v. Risley*, 761 F.2d 1348, 1355 n.4 (9th Cir.
12 1985).

13 If a claim has been adjudicated on the merits by a state court, a federal habeas petitioner
14 must overcome the limitation of § 2254(d)(1) on the record that was before that state court.”
15 *Cullen v. Pinholster*, 563 U.S. 170, 184 (2011). If the state courts did not adjudicate a claim on
16 the merits, this Court may receive new evidence only if the petitioner satisfies the requirements
17 of § 2254(e)(2). *Pinholster*, 563 U.S. at 185-86.

18 Thus, before introducing new evidence on an adjudicated claim, the petitioner must show
19 that the state court made an unreasonable application of federal law or made an unreasonable
20 determination of facts based on the record before it. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d)(1); *Gulbrandson v.*
21 *Ryan*, 738 F.3d 976, 993 (9th Cir. 2013) (noting *Pinholster* “effectively precludes federal
22 evidentiary hearings” on claims adjudicated on the merits). And before introducing new evidence
23 on an un-adjudicated claim, the petitioner must show by clear and convincing evidence that, but
24 for constitutional error, no reasonable fact finder would have found the petitioner guilty. 28
25 U.S.C. § 2254(e)(2)(B).
26

1 Here, Womack seeks the transcripts of pretrial hearings at which he objected to the
2 State’s proffered testimony and asserted his speedy trial right. He attaches as exhibits to his
3 motion appellate court records showing his diligence in attempting to obtain the transcripts. Dkt.
4 12, Attachment 1.

5 In a separate order, this Court ordered the parties to submit supplemental briefing on
6 whether Womack exhausted each of his claims by fully and fairly raising the facts and federal
7 law concerning each claim in state court. Dkt. 15.

8
9 If the claims in Womack’s petition have been exhausted in state court, then to introduce
10 new evidence in federal court, Womack must show that the state court unreasonably applied
11 federal law or unreasonably determined facts based on the record before it. *See Gulbrandson*,
12 738 F.3d at 993; *see also Harmless v. Lazzaraga*, No. 2:14-cv-00223 JAM DB, 2017 U.S. Dist.
13 LEXIS 102374, at *8 (E.D. Cal. June 29, 2017) (unpublished) (deferring decision on new
14 evidence until after court decides § 2254(d) issues); *see also Scales v. Uttecht*, No. 12-5082
15 RJB/JRC, 2012 WL 4849053, at *1–2 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 11, 2012), *aff’d*, 550 F. App’x 399 (9th
16 Cir. 2013) (unpublished) (“Although under Rule 5(c), this Court ‘may order that the respondent
17 furnish other parts of existing transcripts or that parts of untranscribed recordings be transcribed
18 and furnished,’ it is bound, in this instant, by the holding in *Pinholster*.”).

19
20 If the claims in Womack’s petition have not been exhausted in state court, then to
21 introduce new evidence in federal court, he must show by clear and convincing evidence that,
22 but for constitutional error, no reasonable fact finder would have found the petitioner guilty. 28
23 U.S.C. § 2254(e)(2)(B).
24

25 Womack has not, at this stage where exhaustion of state remedies is still an issue, met his
26 burden of proof required for either discovery or to expand the record under Federal Rules of

1 Governing § 2254, Rule 5 or 6. Petitioner’s motion for this Court to consider additional portions
2 of the state court record, and for authorization to conduct discovery, is **DENIED without**
3 **prejudice**. If discovery or additional portions of the state court record are necessary later in the
4 proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 for federal habeas corpus review, the petitioner may raise
5 this motion again, or the Court may independently order additional state court transcripts or
6 documents, or may issue an order sua sponte that discovery is required.
7

8 The Clerk shall send a copy of this Order to petitioner and to counsel for respondent.

9 DATED this 6th day of February, 2018.

10 

11

Theresa L. Fricke
12 United States Magistrate Judge
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26