

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Kendrick L. Williams v. Manuel Portillo, et al.

Case No. 2:25-cv-02468-GMN-EJY · No. 2:25-cv-02468-GMN-EJY · Decided January 9, 2026

SUMMARY

This scheduling order appoints the Federal Public Defender to represent Kendrick L. Williams in his federal habeas proceedings. It establishes deadlines for filing an amended petition, responding to the petition, and raising procedural defenses, and sets requirements for addressing state-court records and exhibits.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Gloria M. Navarro
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
DECIDED	January 9, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-02468-GMN-EJY
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	In a federal habeas corpus proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 2254, the court entered a scheduling order after provisionally appointing the Federal Public Defender and receiving counsel's notice of appearance.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

federal habeas corpus

motions to dismiss

post-conviction relief

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Federal habeas corpus

Post-conviction relief

Civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether counsel should be appointed for Williams in the federal habeas proceedings.
- How the parties must present procedural defenses, including exhaustion, in response to any counseled amended petition.

3. What deadlines and filing procedures should govern the amended petition, responsive pleadings, and state-court record exhibits.

HOLDINGS

1. The Federal Public Defender, through Kimberly Sandberg, was appointed to represent Williams in all federal proceedings related to the matter, including appeals and certiorari proceedings, unless permitted to withdraw.
2. Any procedural defenses to the counseled amended habeas petition, including exhaustion, must be raised together in a single consolidated motion to dismiss rather than in successive motions or embedded in an answer; procedural defenses omitted from that motion may be subject to waiver.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Williams is pursuing federal habeas relief, and the court determined that appointment of counsel was appropriate. The Federal Public Defender timely accepted representation through a notice of appearance. The court established deadlines for an amended petition and responsive briefing while expressly declining to make any finding concerning the expiration or tolling of the federal limitation period.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On December 12, 2025, the court granted Williams's motion for appointment of counsel and provisionally appointed the Federal Public Defender. On January 8, 2026, Kimberly Sandberg, through the Federal Public Defender, filed a notice of appearance. The court then entered this scheduling order governing amendment of the petition, responses, procedural defenses, merits briefing, and filing of state-court records.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Sossa v. Diaz, 729 F.3d 1225, 1235 (9th Cir. 2013)
- Cassett v. Stewart, 406 F.3d 614, 623-24 (9th Cir. 2005)