

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Derrick Lamar Hairston v. Warden

Hairston v. Warden · No. 2:23-cv-00964-MCS (SK) · Decided March 14, 2023

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California ordered Derrick Lamar Hairston to show cause why his § 2254 habeas petition should not be dismissed. The court identified apparent failures to exhaust state remedies, lack of cognizable federal claims, and untimeliness. The order permitted voluntary dismissal or a timely response by April 13, 2023.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Steve Kim
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	March 14, 2023
DOCKET	2:23-cv-00964-MCS (SK)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Order to show cause in a state-prisoner's federal habeas action under 28 U.S.C. § 2254.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under Rule 4 governing § 2254 cases, the court must dismiss a petition if it plainly appears from the petition and attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief. The court also applied the statutory exhaustion, cognizability, and timeliness requirements governing federal habeas review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Derrick Lamar Hairston v. Warden

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- statute of limitations
- pleadings
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- constitutional law
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the petition should be dismissed or subjected to an order to show cause because Hairston failed to exhaust available state-court remedies.
2. Whether the Proposition 47 and presentence-custody-credit claims were cognizable under federal habeas law.
3. Whether the claim that publicity pressured Hairston to plead guilty alleged a violation of the Constitution or federal law cognizable under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a).
4. Whether the petition was untimely under the one-year limitation period in 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1).

HOLDINGS

1. A state prisoner generally must exhaust federal habeas claims by presenting them to the state courts through a complete round of direct review or state habeas proceedings, and federal habeas relief is unavailable for unexhausted claims.
2. Alleged violations of state law, including claims concerning Proposition 47 sentence enhancements and presentence custody credits, are not cognizable on federal habeas review absent a violation of federal law.
3. A § 2254 petition must allege a violation of the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States; an allegation that publicity pressured a guilty plea, without identifying a federal violation, is not cognizable.
4. A state prisoner generally has one year from the date the conviction becomes final to file a federal habeas petition, subject to statutory or equitable tolling and other valid bases for avoiding the limitation bar.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“If it plainly appears from the petition . . . that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court, the judge must dismiss the petition.” (Page 1)

“For all these reasons, Petitioner is ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE on or before Thursday, April 13, 2023, why the Court should not dismiss the petition for lack of exhaustion, failure to state cognizable grounds for relief, or untimeliness.” (Page 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Hairston is a California state prisoner serving a 22-year sentence for residential burglary. His § 2254 petition asserted that his sentence was improperly enhanced based on prior convictions that should have been recalled under Proposition 47, that the state court improperly denied presentence custody credits, and that publicity surrounding his case pressured him to accept a plea deal. He acknowledged that he had not exhausted his claims and alleged that he had filed no direct appeals or state habeas petitions after his 2016 conviction and 2017 sentence.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Hairston filed a § 2254 petition in February 2023 challenging his sentence, presentence custody credits, and guilty plea. The district court found apparent defects including failure to exhaust state remedies, lack of cognizable federal habeas claims, and untimeliness. Rather than immediately dismissing the petition, the court ordered Hairston to show cause by April 13, 2023, why the action should not be dismissed.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Baldwin v. Reese, 541 U.S. 27, 29 (2004)
- Rhoades v. Henry, 611 F.3d 1133, 1142 (9th Cir. 2010)
- Ashanti v. Barreto, 2018 WL 4381541, at *3 (C.D. Cal. May 8, 2018)
- Seymour v. Shirley, 2022 WL 3574167, at *1 (C.D. Cal. July 7, 2022)
- Langford v. Day, 110 F.3d 1380, 1389 (9th Cir. 1996)
- Swarthout v. Cooke, 562 U.S. 216, 219 (2011) (per curiam)
- Holland v. Florida, 560 U.S. 631, 645-46 (2010)
- Stancle v. Clay, 692 F.3d 948, 953 (9th Cir. 2012)

OPINION

Derrick Lamar Hairston v. Warden

PER CURIAM.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CIVIL MINUTES - GENERAL

Case No. 2:23-cv-00964-MCS (SK) Date March 14, 2023 Title Derrick Lamar Hairston v. Warden
Present: The Honorable Steve Kim, United States Magistrate Judge Connie Chung n/a Deputy Clerk Court Smart / Recorder Attorneys Present for Plaintiff: Attorneys Present for Defendant(s):
None present None present Proceedings: (IN CHAMBERS) ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
Petitioner is a California state prisoner serving a 22-year sentence for residential burglary. (ECF 1 at 2). In February 2023, he filed a petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 raising three claims: (1) that his sentence was wrongly enhanced for prior convictions that should have been recalled under California's Proposition 47; (2) that the trial court improperly denied him presentence custody credits; and (3) that he was pressured to accept a plea deal due to publicity surrounding his case. (ECF 1 at 4-6). The petition is deficient on its face for at least three reasons. See Rule 4 of Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases ("If it plainly appears from the petition . . . that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court, the judge must dismiss the petition[.]"). First, Petitioner admits that he has not exhausted his claims. (See ECF 1 at 7). To exhaust his claims, Petitioner

must raise them in the California state courts through either a complete round of direct appeals or state habeas proceedings. See *Baldwin v. Reese*, 541 U.S. 27, 29 (2004). The Court cannot grant habeas relief for unexhausted claims. See 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(A). Second, even if Petitioner's claims had been exhausted, he states no cognizable claims that can be redressed under § 2254. Violations of state law are not subject to federal habeas review. See *Rhoades v. Henry*, 611 F.3d 1133, 1142 (9th Cir. 2010). So, neither Petitioner's Proposition 47 claim nor his presentence-custody-credit claim is reviewable in federal habeas court. See, e.g., *Ashanti v. Barreto*, 2018 WL 4381541, at *3 (C.D. Cal. May 8, 2018) ("A claim premised on Proposition 47 is not cognizable on federal habeas review"); *Seymour v. Shirley*, 2022 WL 3574167, at *1 (C.D. Cal. July 7, 2022) (claim that state court miscalculated presentence custody credits not cognizable on federal habeas corpus). And Petitioner cannot "transform a state-law issue into a federal one merely by asserting a violation of due process." *Langford v. Day*, 110 F.3d 1380, 1389 (9th Cir. 1996). As for his third claim—that he pled guilty because of the publicity around his case—it does not even allege a violation of the Constitution or a federal statute as required by § 2254(a). See *Swarthout v. Cooke*, 562 U.S. CV-90 (10/08) CIVIL MINUTES - GENERAL Page 1 of 2 Case 2:23-cv-00964-MCS-SK Document 4 Filed 03/14/23 Page 2 of 2 Page ID #:33

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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CIVIL MINUTES - GENERAL

Case No. 2:23-cv-00964-MCS (SK) Date March 14, 2023 Title Derrick Lamar Hairston v. Warden 216, 219 (2011) (per curiam). Federal collateral review for Petitioner's claims is unavailable. Third, even if Petitioner had alleged exhausted—and cognizable—federal habeas claims, his petition is untimely on its face. Petitioner was convicted in 2016 and sentenced in 2017. (ECF 1 at 2). He then evidently filed no appeals or state habeas petitions. (ECF 1 at 7). As a result, he had one year after his conviction became final in 2017 to file a federal habeas petition on time. See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1). But because the petition here was not filed until 2023, Petitioner would have to establish equitable tolling or some other valid legal basis to render his petition timely. See *Holland v. Fla.*, 560 U.S. 631, 645-46 (2010); *Stancle v. Clay*, 692 F.3d 948, 953 (9th Cir. 2012). Otherwise, his petition is time-barred no matter if his claims are exhausted and cognizable. For all these reasons, Petitioner is ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE on or before Thursday, April 13, 2023, why the Court should not dismiss the petition for lack of exhaustion, failure to state cognizable grounds for relief, or untimeliness. Petitioner can discharge this order by dismissing this action with the attached Notice of Voluntary Dismissal Form CV-09. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a). If Petitioner files no timely notice of voluntary dismissal or other timely response to this order (especially proving that his petition can be considered timely filed), the petition may be involuntarily dismissed for failure to prosecute. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); L.R. 41-1. IT IS SO ORDERED. CV-90 (10/08) CIVIL MINUTES - GENERAL Page 2 of 2

