

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Narciso Ramirez v. P. Horn

Ramirez · No. CV 24-04529-WDK (DFM) · Decided June 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California summarily dismissed Narciso Ramirez’s 28 U.S.C. § 2254 petition without prejudice for lack of jurisdiction because it was an unauthorized second or successive habeas petition. The court also denied a certificate of appealability and directed Ramirez to seek authorization from the Ninth Circuit before filing another application.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	William D. Keller
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	June 30, 2025
DOCKET	CV 24-04529-WDK (DFM)
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A state prisoner filed a second federal petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging the same conviction and sentence previously challenged in an earlier federal habeas action. The district court screened the petition and summarily dismissed it without prejudice for lack of jurisdiction because Ramirez had not obtained authorization from the Ninth Circuit to file a second or successive petition.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under Rule 4 governing § 2254 cases, the district court must examine the petition and summarily dismiss it if it plainly appears from the petition and attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Narciso Ramirez v. P. Horn, Warden, Kern Valley State Prison

TOPICS

federal habeas corpus

successive petitions

subject matter jurisdiction

post-conviction relief

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

federal habeas corpus

state post-conviction relief

appellate procedure

constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the present § 2254 petition is a second or successive petition challenging the same state conviction and therefore requires prior authorization from the Ninth Circuit under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A).
2. Whether the district court had jurisdiction to consider the petition absent authorization from the court of appeals.
3. Whether a certificate of appealability should issue.

HOLDINGS

1. A petition challenging the same state conviction previously challenged in a federal habeas action is a second or successive petition, even when it presents new theories of relief or repeats a claim previously found unexhausted and voluntarily dismissed.
2. A district court lacks jurisdiction to consider a second or successive § 2254 petition unless the court of appeals has authorized its filing under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A).
3. A certificate of appealability should not issue because the petitioner did not show that reasonable jurists could debate the dismissal or that the issues deserved encouragement to proceed further.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A district court does not have jurisdiction to consider a second or successive petition absent authorization from the court of appeals.”

“Regardless of whether Petitioner can satisfy the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2), he must request and obtain authorization from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals before filing a second or successive petition.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Ramirez is a California state prisoner serving a sentence arising from a 2016 conviction for attempted voluntary manslaughter with firearm-use and great-bodily-injury enhancements. He previously filed a federal habeas petition challenging that conviction and sentence, and judgment dismissing the prior petition with prejudice was entered in 2019. The present petition raises new and previously asserted theories, including ineffective assistance of counsel, racial discrimination, judicial and prosecutorial bias, evidence falsification or concealment, and due process violations.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Ramirez's prior federal habeas action was filed in 2018. After he voluntarily dismissed two unexhausted claims, the district court denied relief on the remaining due-process claim, and judgment dismissing that petition with prejudice was entered on December 19, 2019. Ramirez filed the present petition on May 29, 2024, again challenging the same 2016 conviction and sentence; the district court dismissed it without prejudice as unauthorized and denied a certificate of appealability.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Ortiz-Sandoval v. Gomez, 81 F.3d 891, 894 (9th Cir. 1996)
- Mayle v. Felix, 545 U.S. 644, 656 (2005)
- Tyler v. Cain, 533 U.S. 656, 661 (2001)
- Burton v. Stewart, 549 U.S. 147, 152-53 (2007)
- Nevius v. McDaniel, 218 F.3d 940, 945 (9th Cir. 2000)
- Fleming v. Sandor, No. 11-0024, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24165, at *6 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 7, 2011), report and recommendation adopted by 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24109 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 7, 2011)
- Gatlin v. Madding, 189 F.3d 882, 888 (9th Cir. 1999)
- Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000)

OPINION

Narciso Ramirez v. C. Pfeiffer

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WESTERN DIVISION

NARCISO RAMIREZ, No. CV 24-04529-WDK (DFM)

Petitioner, ORDER SUMMARILY

DISMISSING PETITION AND

v. DENYING A CERTIFICATE OF

APPEALABILITY

P. HORN, Warden, Kern Valley State Prison, Respondent.¹

INTRODUCTION

On May 29, 2024, Petitioner Narciso Ramirez, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus by a person in state custody pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. See Dkt. 1 (“Petition”). Petitioner challenges his 2016 conviction for attempted voluntarily manslaughter, with firearm use and great bodily injury enhancements, entered in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. B271540. See *id.* at 2. For the reasons set forth below, the Petition is dismissed

without prejudice as an unauthorized second or successive petition. 1 The Petition named C. Pfeiffer as Respondent. The Court substitutes the proper respondent, the warden at the prison in which Petitioner is currently incarcerated. See *Ortiz-Sandoval v. Gomez*, 81 F.3d 891, 894 (9th Cir. 1996).

II. PRIOR PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to Rule 201 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, the Court takes judicial notice of the records in Petitioner's prior federal habeas corpus action, *Narciso Ramirez v. Warden*, No. CV 18-08151-PSG (MAA) (C.D. Cal. filed Sept. 20, 2018). There, Petitioner raised three claims; however, Petitioner voluntarily dismissed two of the grounds, specifically, his ineffective assistance of counsel and Fifth Amendment claims, after the Court noted that they appeared to be unexhausted. See *id.*, Dkts. 13, 15. The Court then considered the merits of Petitioner's remaining claim that the state appellate court violated his Fourteenth Amendment right to due process by declining to remand the case to the trial court to reconsider a firearm sentencing enhancement under California Senate Bill 620 and ultimately denied relief. See *id.*, Dkt. 30 (Report & Recommendation); Dkt. 39 (Order Adopting Report & Recommendation). On December 19, 2019, judgment was entered dismissing the Petition with prejudice. See *id.*, Dkt. 40. In the instant action, Petitioner challenges the same 2016 conviction and sentence once again. See Petition at 2. Petitioner's claims appear to be as follows: (1) ineffective assistance of counsel due to defense counsel's alleged conflict of interest; (2) racial discrimination by defense counsel; (3) judicial and prosecutorial bias and misconduct; (4) falsification and concealment of evidence; and (5) violation of due process. See *id.* at 5-7.

III. DISCUSSION

The Court has a duty to screen habeas corpus petitions. See Rules Governing § 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts, Rule 4 Advisory Committee Notes. Rule 4 requires a district court to examine a habeas corpus petition, and if it plainly appears from the face of the petition and any annexed exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief, the judge shall make an order for summary dismissal of the petition. *Id.*; see also Local Rule 72-3.2; *Mayle v. Felix*, 545 U.S. 644, 656 (2005). The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA") applies to the instant Petition. AEDPA "greatly restricts the power of federal courts to award relief to state prisoners who file second or successive habeas corpus petitions." *Tyler v. Cain*, 533 U.S. 656, 661 (2001). AEDPA requires that "before filing [a second or successive habeas corpus] application in the district court, a prisoner 'shall move in the appropriate court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider the application.'" *Burton v. Stewart*, 549 U.S. 147, 152-53 (2007) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A)). A district court does not have jurisdiction to consider a second or successive petition absent authorization from the court of appeals. See *id.* at 152. The court of appeals may authorize the filing of a second or successive petition only if it determines that at least one of the petitioner's claims satisfies the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b). See *Nevius v. McDaniel*, 218 F.3d 940, 945 (9th Cir. 2000). Here, the Petition is a second or

successive petition challenging the same conviction at issue in Petitioner's prior habeas action. The Petition presents an ineffective assistance of counsel claim, which was also raised in the 2018 petition where it was found to be unexhausted and was voluntarily dismissed by Petitioner. See *Fleming v. Sandor*, No. 11-0024, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24165, at *6 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 7, 2011), report and recommendation adopted by 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24109 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 7, 2011) (dismissing petition as second or successive where it raised "the same undue delay/speedy trial claim raised in the 2008 petition, found to be unexhausted, and then voluntarily dismissed by Petitioner").? Moreover, while Petitioner offers some new theories for habeas relief, this does not excuse him from the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3). Regardless of whether Petitioner can satisfy the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2), he must request and obtain authorization from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals before filing a second or successive petition. There is no indication in the record that Petitioner has obtained the requisite authorization from the Ninth Circuit. The Court, therefore, lacks jurisdiction over the Petition. See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3); *Burton*, 549 U.S. at 152.°

IV. CONCLUSION

The Petition is dismissed without prejudice for lack of jurisdiction. If Petitioner wishes to make a second or successive application in this Court, he must first file a "Motion for Order Authorizing District Court to Consider Second or Successive Petition Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A)" directly with the Ninth Circuit. A certificate of appealability will not issue because there has not been a showing that "reasonable jurists could debate whether (or, for that matter, agree that) the petition should have been resolved in a different manner or that > The Court notes that it appears that Petitioner's ineffective assistance of counsel claim, as well as all other claims presented in the Petition, are still unexhausted. See Petition at 7 (stating that "none" of the claims raised 1n the Petition were presented to the California Supreme Court); see also *Gatlin v. Madding*, 189 F.3d 882, 888 (9th Cir. 1999) (concluding that under California appellate review procedure, petitioner was required to exhaust his habeas claims in petition for review with the California Supreme Court). > Because the Court lacks jurisdiction over the Petition, the Court does not reach the issue of whether the Petition satisfies the exceptions set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2). the issues presented were 'adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further.'" *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000 . Aficeraee 2fettium— Date: June 30, 2025

WILLIAM D. KELLER

United States District Judge Presented by: F. n—_ United States Magistrate Judge &