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**In the Supreme Court of the United States**

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**STEPHEN MORELAND REDD,**

Petitioner,

v.

**KEVIN CHAPPELL, WARDEN,**

Respondent.

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ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE  
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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**BRIEF IN OPPOSITION**

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CAPITAL CASE  
QUESTION PRESENTED

Whether the California Supreme Court denied petitioner his federal constitutional rights in refusing to accept for filing a pro se motion to recall the remittitur in his direct appeal.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Statement .....	1
Argument .....	3
Conclusion .....	7

Appendix No. 1

*Redd v. Chappell* (U.S.D.C., C.D.Cal.  
CV 13-7238 ABC), Order Denying and  
Dismissing Petition for Writ of Habeas  
Corpus, filed October 10, 2013

Appendix No. 2

*Redd v. Chappell* (9th Cir. 14-55004),  
Order, filed April 21, 2014

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

	Page
<b>CASES</b>	
<i>Estelle v. McGuire</i> 502 U.S. 62 (1991) .....	4
<i>In re Barnett</i> 31 Cal. 4th 466 (2003) .....	2, 6
<i>In re Jimenez</i> 50 Cal. 4th 951 (2010) .....	6
<i>In re Morgan</i> 50 Cal. 4th 932 (2010) .....	6
<i>In re Reno</i> 55 Cal. 4th 428 (2012) .....	5
<i>Martinez v. California Court of Appeal</i> 528 U.S. 152 (2000) .....	4
<i>Pennsylvania v. Finley</i> 481 U.S. 551 (1987) .....	5
<i>People v. Redd</i> 48 Cal. 4th 691 (2010) .....	1
<i>Redd v. California</i> 131 S. Ct. 328 (2010) .....	1
<i>Ross v. Moffitt</i> 417 U.S. 600 (1974) .....	5
<i>Slack v. McDaniel</i> 529 U.S. 473 (2000) .....	4

**TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**  
**(continued)**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>STATUTES</b>	
28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2) .....	3
28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(B) .....	3
<b>COURT RULES</b>	
California Rules of Court Rule 8.272 .....	1
<b>OTHER AUTHORITIES</b>	
9 Witkin, California Procedure, 5th (2008) Appeal, § 844, p. 906 .....	1

## STATEMENT

1. During a four-month period in 1994, petitioner Stephen Moreland Redd committed a series of armed robberies, culminating in a grocery store robbery in which he shot and killed store employee Timothy McVeigh. *People v. Redd*, 48 Cal. 4th 691, 697-704 (2010). A jury found petitioner guilty of first degree murder, attempted murder, robbery, and burglary. The jury also found, as a “special circumstance” making petitioner eligible for the death penalty, that the McVeigh murder was committed while petitioner was engaged in robbery and burglary. Following a penalty trial, the jury returned a death verdict. Petitioner was sentenced to death for capital murder and to prison for a term of 111 years for his other crimes. *Id.* 697.

Represented by appointed counsel, petitioner appealed. The California Supreme Court affirmed the judgment and sentence in April 2010. *Redd*, 48 Cal. 4th 691. It issued its remittitur in June.<sup>1</sup> This Court denied petitioner’s petition for writ of certiorari from the judgment affirming his conviction in October 2010. *Redd v. California*, 131 S. Ct. 328 (2010). Soon thereafter, on October 10, 2010, the California Appellate Project filed a “shell” habeas corpus petition—that is, a petition stating no claims but apparently intended

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<sup>1</sup> The remittitur is issued when the appellate opinion is final for all purposes. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.272.) When the remittitur issues, it terminates the jurisdiction of the appellate court, and the jurisdiction of the trial court reattaches. 9 Witkin, Cal. Proc. 5th (2008) Appeal, § 844, p. 906.

to toll the statute of limitations for filing a federal habeas petition—on petitioner's behalf in the California Supreme Court.

2. Two years later, in October 2012, petitioner submitted to the California Supreme Court a pro se request for recall of the remittitur in his earlier state-court appeal. Under its established policies, see *In re Barnett*, 31 Cal. 4th 466, 469 (2003), the supreme court declined to file the pro se request because petitioner was represented by counsel. Pet. A-10.

Petitioner also wrote to the California Supreme Court regarding appointment of state habeas corpus counsel. Pet. A-3, A-7 to A-8. In response, the court explained to petitioner that an “initial’ capital-related habeas petition had been filed on his behalf” by the California Appellate Project, although not as petitioner’s counsel of record in the habeas corpus case, and informed him that, in “due course, [the] court will appoint either a qualified death penalty habeas corpus practitioner or defense agency to [his] case, as soon as a qualified practitioner or defense agency is willing and available to represent [him] as counsel of record for capital-related state habeas corpus proceedings.” Pet. A-12. To date, the supreme court has not appointed state habeas counsel for petitioner.

3. Petitioner filed a pro se petition for writ of habeas corpus in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. See Brief in Opposition, Appendix No. 1. He alleged denials of due process, equal

protection, and access to the courts, based on the California Supreme Court's refusal to accept his request to recall the remittitur and the delay in appointing state habeas counsel. The district court denied the petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(B) because petitioner had failed to exhaust available state-court remedies before pursuing federal habeas relief. The district court further concluded that petitioner did not meet the requirements for issuance of a certificate of appealability (COA) because he had not made a substantial showing of the violation of a constitutional right, as required by 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). The court explained that petitioner's complaint about alleged delay in appointment of counsel for state habeas corpus proceedings failed to state a cognizable federal claim. *Id.*

4. Petitioner filed a notice of appeal. The Ninth Circuit issued an order treating the notice as a request for a certificate of appealability and denied it. The order explained that whether a remittitur is recalled in a state-court appeal raises only a question of state law that is not subject to federal habeas review. See *Opp. App. No. 2*.

### ARGUMENT

Petitioner contends that the California Supreme Court unconstitutionally refused to file his pro se motion to recall the remittitur in his direct appeal while it is delaying in appointing him state habeas corpus counsel. Pet. 3-10. As the Ninth Circuit recognized, however, petitioner fails

to present a federal constitutional question cognizable in federal habeas corpus proceedings. See *Estelle v. McGuire*, 502 U.S. 62, 68 (1991). Because petitioner failed to make a “substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right,” the court of appeals correctly denied the COA. See *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 483-844 (2000).

1. There is no federal constitutional right to self-representation in a criminal appeal. *Martinez v. California Court of Appeal*, 528 U.S. 152, 154 (2000). Petitioner likewise had no federal constitutional right to proceed pro se in seeking recall of the remittitur in his state appeal. Petitioner was represented by appointed counsel in that appeal, the California Supreme Court has not relieved counsel of that appointment, and petitioner presents no basis for believing that said counsel no longer represents him or would not entertain a request to file such a motion if it were warranted.

2. Petitioner says that the California Supreme Court has delayed appointing him state habeas corpus counsel, and he implies that the delay somehow has made it impossible for him to seek recall of the remittitur in his appeal through counsel. But, as just explained, and as the California Supreme Court indicated to petitioner in a letter sent both to him and to his appointed appellate counsel (see Pet. A-10), petitioner’s court-appointed *appellate* counsel presumably still represents him in that appeal or could resume representation if there were reason to do so. There is no apparent

reason that appointed counsel could not seek recall of the remittitur if there were reason to do so.

Nor, in any event, does the constitution require the state to provide for collateral attacks on its judgments, or to appoint counsel to represent convicted defendants in such collateral attacks to the extent they are allowed. See *Pennsylvania v. Finley*, 481 U.S. 551, 555-57 (1987); *Ross v. Moffitt*, 417 U.S. 600, 610 (1974). Accordingly, the delay of which petitioner complains does not violate any federal right that he may assert through federal habeas proceedings.

California provides ample protections for capital defendants in state appeals and habeas corpus proceedings. See generally, *In re Reno*, 55 Cal. 4th 428, 456-57 (2012), as modified on denial of reh'g (Oct. 31, 2012), cert. denied, 133 S. Ct. 2345 (2013). As part of that system, the California Supreme Court has held:

Consistent with the general rule that represented parties have no right to present their cases personally alongside counsel – a principle we have recognized in the context of both capital trials and appeals, and noncapital habeas corpus proceedings as well – this court will not file or consider a represented capital inmate's pro se submissions that challenge the legality of the inmate's death judgment or otherwise fall within the scope of counsel's representation. Conversely, we shall file and consider a represented capital inmate's pro se submissions that pertain to matters falling outside the scope of counsel's representation. We shall also file and consider pro se motions limited to matters concerning the inmate's representation. (See *People v. Marsden*

(1970) 2 Cal.3d 118, 84 Cal.Rptr. 156, 465 P.2d 44 (*Marsden*)  
[motion to substitute counsel].)

*In re Barnett*, 31 Cal. 4th at 469.

Here, the California Appellate Project already has filed a “shell” habeas corpus petition on petitioner’s behalf. In due course the California Supreme Court will appoint habeas counsel for petitioner, and that counsel will be able to amend the shell petition within three years after the appointment. *In re Morgan*, 50 Cal. 4th 932, 940 (2010); *In re Jimenez*, 50 Cal. 4th 951, 958 (2010). At that stage, counsel appointed for petitioner presumably will be able to present, in habeas corpus, any colorable claim of ineffective assistance of trial or appellate counsel.

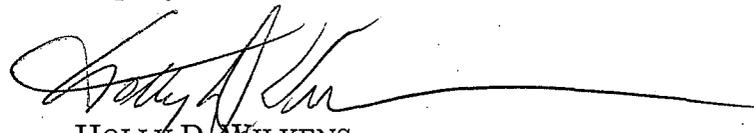
The denial of petitioner’s habeas corpus petition and the denial of a COA were correct. Petitioner has not made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right since his inability to file a pro se motion to recall the remittitur involves a question of state law.

**CONCLUSION**

The petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly D. Wilkens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HOLLY D. WILKENS  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
*Counsel of Record*

Dated: October 15, 2014

# **APPENDIX**

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

STEPHEN MORELAND REDD,  
Petitioner,  
vs.  
KEVIN CHAPPELL, Warden,  
California State Prison at San Quentin  
Respondent.

Case No.: CV 13-7238 ABC  
**DEATH PENALTY CASE**

ORDER DENYING AND  
DISMISSING PETITION FOR WRIT  
OF HABEAS CORPUS

**I. BACKGROUND**

A jury convicted Stephen Moreland Redd of the first degree murder of Timothy McVeigh, the attempted murders of James Shahbakhti and Chris Weidmann , two counts of second degree robbery, and two counts of second degree commercial burglary. The jury found true the special circumstances that the murder was committed while defendant was engaged in the commission of robbery and of burglary. The jury also found true the allegations that defendant personally used a firearm in the commission of each of the seven crimes, and that defendant, with the specific intent to inflict such injury, personally inflicted great bodily injury upon James Shahbakhti. The jury also found that defendant previously had been convicted of five serious or violent felonies. Following the penalty phase of the trial, the jury returned a verdict of death. Defendant moved for a new trial and

1 for modification of the penalty to life imprisonment without the possibility of  
2 parole. The trial court denied these motions and sentenced defendant to death. The  
3 court also sentenced defendant to a term of 111 years to life in prison with respect  
4 to the other charges of which he was convicted, and ordered restitution in the  
5 amount of \$ 10,000. *People v. Redd*, 48 Cal. 4th 691, 697 (2010). The California  
6 Supreme Court affirmed the conviction and sentence on direct appeal on April 29,  
7 2010. *Id.* at 759. His conviction and sentence became final when his Petition for  
8 Writ of Certiorari to the United States Supreme Court was denied on October 4,  
9 2010.<sup>1</sup>

10 California Supreme Court Policies<sup>2</sup> state that the “appointment of habeas  
11 corpus counsel for a person under a sentence of death shall be made  
12 simultaneously with appointment of appellate counsel, or at the earliest practicable  
13 time thereafter.” (Policy 3.2-1.) The policies contemplate different timeliness  
14 measures for the filing of the state habeas petition based on the type of  
15 appointment that is made. If direct appeal counsel is also appointed as state habeas  
16 counsel, then the habeas petition must be filed within 180 days of the date filing of  
17 the reply brief on direct appeal. (Policy 3.1-1.2.) On the other hand, if habeas  
18 counsel is appointed apart from direct appeal counsel, then the petition is not due  
19 until 36 months after the date on which habeas counsel was appointed. (Policy  
20 3.1-1.2.)

21 Petitioner has not yet had state habeas counsel appointed, though the  
22 California Appellate Project filed a habeas petition asserting a limited number of  
23 claims (a so called “shell” petition) on his behalf. That petition was filed on  
24 October 5, 2010; the day after the United States Supreme Court denied the Petition  
25 for Writ of Certiorari. Petitioner has attempted to file pro se motions with the  
26 California Supreme Court, primary among them being motions to recall the

27  
28 <sup>1</sup> The docket in petitioner’s case on direct appeal is found on the California Supreme Court website located at:  
[http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/dockets.cfm?dist=0&doc\\_id=1791273&doc\\_no=S059531](http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/dockets.cfm?dist=0&doc_id=1791273&doc_no=S059531)

<sup>2</sup> See [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/PoliciesMar2012.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/PoliciesMar2012.pdf) - 2012-03-05.

1 remittitur and reopen briefing on his direct appeal. He has also written letters to  
2 the state supreme court requesting the appointment of habeas counsel. The  
3 California Supreme Court has rejected Petitioner's pro se filings and has also told  
4 him that the court is still attempting to find counsel to appoint for his state habeas  
5 case.

## 6 **II. DISCUSSION**

### 7 **A. Petitioner Has Not Exhausted His State Court Remedies and Has** 8 **Not Been Subjected to a Suspension of the Writ**

9 AEDPA limits the federal courts' ability to entertain habeas corpus petitions  
10 by state prisoners. This Court cannot entertain such a petition unless the petitioner  
11 has exhausted all state court remedies available to him. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(A).  
12 The only exception to this "complete exhaustion" requirement exists in those cases  
13 where the petitioner can demonstrate either that there is an absence of available  
14 state corrective process or circumstances exist that render such process ineffective  
15 to protect his rights. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(B).

16 In his pro se filing here, Petitioner cites California State statutory and case  
17 law that he believes support the proposition that he should be allowed to recall the  
18 remittitur in the state court. He also states, "I now appeal to this court, requesting  
19 that the [California Supreme Court] be ordered to accept and timely grant appellate  
20 relief." He also states that he believes that he is being denied access to the courts  
21 and effective corrective process in violation of his due process rights because it is  
22 taking too long for the appointment of his state habeas counsel. This case falls  
23 within the statutory scheme established by the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death  
24 Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA"), codified at 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

25 These claims are essentially identical to recent pro se prisoner claims made  
26 in this District and others that the state court's procedures either amounted to a  
27 suspension of the writ or made the filing of state appellate or post-conviction  
28 petitions an exercise in futility. *See Brasure v. Martel*, CV 11-5451 PSG, *Reed v.*

1 *People of the State of California*, CV 12-0557 JFW, *Shove v. Chappell*, CV 12-  
2 2194 R, *Williams v. Chappell*, CV 12-3975 AG, *Gay v. Chappell*, CV 12-4677,  
3 *Howard v. Chappell*, CV 12-5222 DOC, and *DeBose v. Chappell*, CV 12-5254  
4 DDP

5 There is no controlling case law in this Circuit that supports the notion that  
6 lengthy appellate delay could support a finding that pending, or yet to be filed,  
7 habeas claims have been exhausted. Though decided in terms of an actual habeas  
8 claim, and not in relation to an effort to bypass the complete exhaustion  
9 requirement, the Court of Appeals decision in *Hayes v. Ayers*, 632 F.3d 500 (9th  
10 Cir. 2011) is instructive on how the Court should consider Petitioner's request  
11 here. In *Hayes*, the petitioner had been on California's death row for eleven years  
12 prior the filing of his opening brief on direct appeal. *Id.* at 523. The petitioner  
13 brought a habeas claim for due process violations of his purported right to a speedy  
14 appeal. *Id.* Though he cited case law, including law from this circuit, that  
15 suggested that such a claim could be viable, the Court of Appeals ultimately  
16 determined that such a claim could not be brought because there was no United  
17 State Supreme Court precedent finding that such a right existed. *Id.* In addition,  
18 the Court of Appeal's found that the petitioner had identified no prejudice that  
19 resulted from the eleven year delay. *Id.*

20 The Court of Appeals reaffirmed this essential holding in *Blair v. Martel*,  
21 645 F.3d 1151 (9th Cir. 2011) when it found that it could not consider the  
22 petitioner's habeas claim that his due process rights had been violated by a thirteen  
23 year appellate delay. *Id.* at 1158. In like manner, the federal courts cannot compel  
24 the state courts to process an appeal except perhaps through consideration of a  
25 claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. *Id.* at 1157 – 58. These findings are consistent with  
26 the United States Supreme Court's holding that the Anti-terrorism and Effective  
27 Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA), codified at 28 U.S.C. § 2254, limits the  
28 federal courts' ability to disturb state criminal court judgments. AEDPA's goal is

1 the promotion of comity, finality, and federalism, giving the state courts the first  
2 opportunity to review claims and correct any constitutional infirmities in the first  
3 instance. *Cullen v. Pinholster*, 131 S. Ct. 1398, 1401 (2011). Given that only  
4 three years have passed since Petitioner's conviction and sentence became final,  
5 there is no discernible basis for going forward with this petition and overriding the  
6 principles of federalism and comity that inform federal habeas jurisprudence.

7 If Petitioner is implying that he has fallen victim to a de facto suspension of  
8 the writ, he still cannot obtain relief from this Court. Even if he could establish an  
9 undue delay by the California courts in processing his habeas petition, federal law  
10 still binds this Court's consideration of any suspension allegations. The  
11 Suspension Clause states, "The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be  
12 suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may  
13 require it." U.S. Const., art. I, § 9, cl. 2. There is very little agreement over the  
14 scope and meaning of the Suspension Clause. As the Supreme Court has stated:

15 Our case law does not contain extensive discussion of standards  
16 defining suspension of the writ or of circumstances under which  
17 suspension has occurred. This simply confirms the care Congress has  
18 taken throughout our Nation's history to preserve the writ and its  
19 function. Indeed, most of the major legislative enactments pertaining  
20 to habeas corpus have acted not to contract the writ's protection but to  
21 expand it or to hasten resolution of prisoners' claims.

22 *Boumediene v. Bush*, 553 U.S. 723, 773 (2008).

23 Such is the case in California where the State Supreme Court recently  
24 extended the presumptive timeliness for filing a petition by doubling the time  
25 limits from 90 to 180 days in the case of dual appointment and increasing the time  
26 frame by fifty percent from 24 to 36 months in the case of separate appointments.  
27 (Policies, Official Notes Nos. 1 & 2.) Moreover, the policies mandate the  
28 appointment of habeas counsel in all capital cases in an effort to ensure that  
potentially meritorious habeas corpus petitions will be presented in a timely  
fashion. (Policy 3(i).) These policies demonstrate that the state supreme court is  
cognizant of the time constraints on counsel, the complexity of habeas cases, and

1 the sometimes arcane nature of habeas law. Of course that court is also fully aware  
2 both that its policies impose no limits on the number of times a habeas petitioner  
3 can return to the state courts with new theories of relief and that the sheer volume  
4 of cases pending before it is high.

5 That California's policies track with the Supreme Court's observations in  
6 *Boumediene* is not, however, the most compelling reason why this Court declines  
7 to find that there is a de facto suspension of the writ in the delay in adjudicating  
8 Petitioner's state habeas claims. Rather, it is because the Suspension Clause does  
9 not apply to the states. *Gasquet v. LaPeyre*, 242 U.S. 367 (1917) (The Suspension  
10 Clause is not a limitation on State action); *Geach v. Olsen*, 211 F.2d 682, 684 (7th  
11 Cir. 1954) (same); *Harvey v. State of South Carolina*, 310 F. Supp. 83, 85 (D.S.C.  
12 1970) (same). Thus, any obligations arising out of the Suspension Clause fall on  
13 Congress and on the federal courts, not on the courts of the State of California.  
14 Petitioner cannot claim that the three years that have passed since his conviction  
15 and sentence became final amount to a suspension of the writ.

16 Though suspension of the writ is not the touchstone to a potentially  
17 meritorious argument that exhaustion should not be required, Petitioner still must  
18 make a substantial showing in order to succeed in doing so. The Court of Appeals  
19 has found that a habeas petitioner may forgo the presentation of claims to the state  
20 court if doing so would be an "empty gesture." *Rivera v. Pugh*, 133 F.3d 928 (9th  
21 Cir. 1997). The First Circuit has found that §2254(b)(1) applies where "a state's  
22 highest court has ruled unfavorably on a claim involving facts and issues  
23 materially identical to those undergirding a federal habeas petition and there is no  
24 plausible reason to believe that a replay will persuade the court to reverse its field."  
25 *Allen v. Attorney General of Maine*, 80 F.3d 569, 573 (1st Cir.1996). The Third  
26 Circuit followed *Allen in Lines v. Larkins*, 208 F.3d 153 (3d Cir. 2000). These  
27 cases demonstrate that to the extent that federal courts are willing to consider the  
28

1 circumstances under which a petitioner can avoid exhaustion under section  
2 2254(b)(1)(B), he or she must establish that to do so would be pointless.

3 The Supreme Court has also held that a petitioner may be excused from  
4 exhausting state remedies if a return to the state courts would be futile. *See Lynce*  
5 *v. Mathis*, 519 U.S. 433, 436, n.4 (1997). The exact contours of this exception are  
6 not entirely clear but both the United States Supreme Court and the Court of  
7 Appeals have looked on this exception with disfavor. *See, e.g., Engle v. Isaac*, 456  
8 U.S. 107, 130 (1982); *Noltie v. Peterson*, 9 F.3d 802, 805 (9th Cir. 1993). “[I]f the  
9 highest state court has recently addressed the issue raised in the petition and  
10 resolved it adversely to petitioner, in the absence of any intervening United States  
11 Supreme Court decisions on point or any other indication that the state court  
12 intends to depart from its prior decisions,” exhaustion may be futile. *Sweet v.*  
13 *Cupp*, 640 F.2d 233, 236 (9th Cir. 1981). For example, when the petitioner’s claim  
14 is identical to a claim already presented and rejected by the state’s highest court,  
15 failure to exhaust that claim may be excused as futile. *See Lynce v. Mathis*, 519  
16 U.S. 433, 436 n.4 (1997) (excusing petitioner from presenting his Ex Post Facto  
17 Clause claim to the highest state court where that court had decided the identical  
18 issue in another case).

19 The futility doctrine is most appropriately applied when the issue involves  
20 pure law rather than an issue of fact or mixed question of law and fact. Compare  
21 *Id.* (recognizing that futility excused exhaustion of pure legal issue regarding  
22 statutory challenge based on ex post facto violation), with *Noltie*, 9 F.3d at 405  
23 (futility doctrine did not excuse petitioner from failing to raise juror claim in state  
24 court even though petitioner had exhausted a claim regarding another juror because  
25 facts of both claims were different). The futility doctrine may also excuse  
26 exhaustion if the factual or legal basis of the claim was not reasonably available at  
27 the time the petitioner pursued his state remedies. *Cf. LaGrand v. Stewart*, 173,  
28 F.3d 1144, 1148 (9th Cir. 1999) (excusing procedural default based on futility).

1 None of these scenarios is present here. In fact, Petitioner's sole basis for  
2 filing this petition is that he believes the California Supreme Court is taking too  
3 long. Petitioner has an available state court remedy. A shell petition has been  
4 submitted on his behalf. The time during which a properly filed state habeas  
5 petition is pending tolls the statute of limitation in federal habeas cases. 28 U.S.C.  
6 § 2244(d)(2). The State Supreme Court has previously acknowledged the  
7 difficulty in finding qualified attorneys to take capital habeas cases and that this  
8 has created some significant delays in the appointment of counsel. *In re Jiminez*,  
9 50 Cal. 4th 951, 957 (2010). For this reason it has permitted petitioners to later  
10 amend such "shell" petitions with more extensively researched and pleadings, thus  
11 making the filing of the "shell" petition timely under state law and thus sufficient  
12 to toll the federal statute of limitations. *Id.*

13 There is no legal or factual support for the filing of this habeas petition. Any  
14 delays Petitioner has experienced are not distinct from those experienced by other  
15 similarly situated petitioners. Only three years have passed since his conviction  
16 and sentences became final. This petition is premature and must be dismissed.

17 **B. The Requirements for a Certificate of Appealability Have Not**  
18 **Been Met**

19 The issuance of certificates of appealability in habeas cases is controlled by  
20 28 U.S.C. § 2253. The statute states that unless a judge issues a certificate of  
21 appealability, an appeal may not be taken from the final order in a habeas corpus  
22 proceeding in which the determination complained of arises out of a process issued  
23 by a State court. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(A). Further, the statute states that a  
24 certificate of appealability may issue only if the applicant has made a substantial  
25 showing of the denial of a constitutional right. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). Though  
26 Petitioner complains that his due process rights are being violated by the slowness  
27 of the state court proceedings, no such claim is cognizable under AEDPA because  
28 habeas corpus proceedings exist to test and determine the constitutional viability of

1 the trial proceedings that led to the petitioner's conviction and sentence and not the  
2 fairness of state habeas proceedings. Further, the United States Supreme Court has  
3 never held that a due process violation occurs when a state court delays its decision  
4 on a direct appeal or habeas petition. For these reasons the Court will not issue a  
5 certificate of appealability in this case.

6 **III. CONCLUSION**

7 For the foregoing reasons, the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus is  
8 DENIED and DISMISSED without prejudice to Petitioner reasserting these claims  
9 after the exhaustion requirements set forth in federal statute and controlling case  
10 law have been met. In addition, the requirements for the issuance of a certificate of  
11 appealability have not been met and therefore, the Court declines to issue the same.

12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

13 Dated this 10 of October, 2013

*Audrey B. Collins*

\_\_\_\_\_  
AUDREY B. COLLINS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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**FILED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

APR 21 2014

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

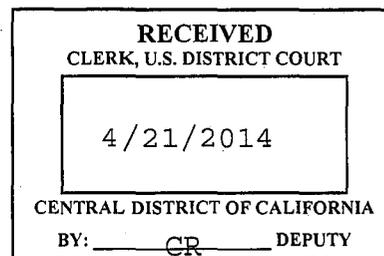
MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK  
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

<p>STEPHEN MORELAND REDD,</p> <p>Petitioner - Appellant,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>KEVIN CHAPPELL, Warden, of the California State Prison at San Quentin,</p> <p>Respondent - Appellee.</p>
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No. 14-55004

D.C. No. 2:13-cv-07238-ABC  
Central District of California,  
Los Angeles

ORDER



Before: WARDLAW and W. FLETCHER, Circuit Judges

The district court denied a certificate of appealability (COA) after dismissing Petitioner's pro se habeas petition as premature due to the failure to exhaust state remedies. Petitioner appeals. We construe the notice of appeal as a request for a COA. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1) (a COA is required for a habeas appeal).

Petitioner in 1997 was sentenced to death following his conviction for first degree murder. The California Supreme Court in 2010 affirmed the conviction and sentence. *See People v. Redd*, 229 P.3d 101 (Cal. 2010). Petitioner has yet to be appointed counsel for his state habeas proceedings. *See In re Redd*, S187007 (petition filed 10/5/10 by California Appellate Project); *see also In re Morgan*, 237 P.3d 993 (Cal. 2010).

Petitioner pro se now seeks a federal court order mandating that the California Supreme Court accept and file his pro se motion to recall the remittitur on direct appeal for consideration of eyewitness identification and search issues. Petitioner insists the California Supreme Court's alleged refusal to consider his recall of the remittitur motion violates his rights to due process, equal protection, and access to the courts.

Whether a remittitur is recalled on direct appeal raises an issue of state law that is not cognizable on federal habeas. *Cf. Estelle v. McGuire*, 502 U.S. 62, 67-68 (1991) (alleged errors of state law are not cognizable on federal habeas review).

Accordingly, a COA is denied. In forma pauperis status is denied as moot. The Clerk shall close this docket. No more filings will be accepted in this closed case.

**In the Supreme Court of the United States**

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STEPHEN MORELAND REDD, *Petitioner,*

v.

KEVIN CHAPPELL, WARDEN, *Respondent.*

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY MAIL**

I, Stephen McGee, Legal Secretary, on behalf of Supervising Deputy Attorney General Holly D. Wilkens, Counsel of Record for Respondent and a member of the Bar of this Court, hereby certify that on October 15, 2014, a copy of the **BRIEF IN OPPOSITION** in the above-entitled case were mailed, in the internal mail collection system at the Office of the Attorney General at 110 West A Street, Suite 1100, P.O. Box 85266, San Diego, CA 92186-5266, first class postage thereon fully prepaid, addressed as follows:

**STEPHEN MORELAND REDD  
CDCR NO C64658  
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SAN QUENTIN CA 94974**

*Pro se*

**GRACE LIDIA SUAREZ  
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508 LIBERTY ST  
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**CALIFORNIA APPELLATE PROJECT  
101 SECOND ST STE 600  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105-3672**

I further certify that all parties required to be served have been served.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of American that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on October 15, 2014, at San Diego, California.

  
STEPHEN MCGEE  
Legal Secretary