### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

Electronically Filed Oct 14 2019 01:41 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

LUIS GODOREFO PIMENTEL, III, Appellant(s),

VS.

RENEE BAKER; AND THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Respondent(s),

Case No: A-19-793359-W

Docket No: 79674

# RECORD ON APPEAL

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT LUIS PIMENTEL #1144889, PROPER PERSON 1200 PRISON RD. LOVELOCK, NV 89419 ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT STEVEN B. WOLFSON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY 200 LEWIS AVE. LAS VEGAS, NV 89155-2212

# A-19-793359-W Luis Pimentel, Plaintiff(s) vs. Warden Baker, Defendant(s)

### I N D E X

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Case No.	A-14-296234-P
Dept. No.	5
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CLERK OF COURT

A-19-793359-W Dept. V

IN THE SM JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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Petitioner,

-vs-

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worden Baker

Respondent.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS (POST-CONVICTION)

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- (1) This petition must be legibly handwritten or typewritten, signed by the petitioner and verified.
- (2) Additional pages are not permitted except where noted or with respect to the facts which you rely upon to support your grounds for relief. No citation of authorities need be furnished. If briefs or arguments are submitted, they should be submitted in the form of a separate memorandum.
- (3) If you want an attorney appointed, you must complete the Affidavit in Support of Request to Proceed in Forma Pauperis. You must have an authorized officer at the prison complete the certificate as to the amount of money and securities on deposit to your credit in any account in the institution.
- (4) You must name as respondent the person by whom you are confined or restrained. If you are in a specific institution of the Department of Corrections, name the warden or head of the institution. If you are not in a specific institution of the Department but within its custody, name the Director of the Department of Corrections.
- (5) You must include all grounds or claims for relief which you may have regarding your conviction or sentence. Failure to raise all grounds in this petition may preclude you from filing

- (6) You must allege specific facts supporting the claims in the petition you file seeking relief from any conviction or sentence. Failure to allege specific facts rather than just conclusions may cause your petition to be dismissed. If your petition contains a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, that claim will operate to waive the attorney-client privilege for the proceeding in which you claim your counsel was ineffective.
- (7) When the petition is fully completed, the original and one copy must be filed with the clerk of the state district court for the county in which you were convicted. One copy must be mailed to the respondent, one copy to the Attorney General's Office, and one copy to the district attorney of the county in which you were convicted or to the original prosecutor if you are challenging your original conviction or sentence. Copies must conform in all particulars to the original submitted for filing.

#### PETITION

1. Name of institution and county in which you are presently imprisoned or where and how you are presently restrained of your liberty: Lovelock Correctional Center, Pershing County, Nevada.

2. Name and location of court which entered the judgment of conviction under attack: 14h Judgment Operated to

Clark County Les Vacs NEV

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- 3. Date of judgment of conviction: 6-64-2015
- 4. Case number: 1-14-296224-1
- 5. (a) Length of sentence: 20-50 years
- (b) If sentence is death, state any date upon which execution is scheduled: N/A
- 6. Are you presently serving a sentence for a conviction other than the conviction under attack in this motion?

Yes No 🔨

If "yes," list crime, case number and sentence being served at this time:

7. Nature of offense involved in conviction being challenged:

What was your plea? (check one)

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$_{1}\parallel$	
2	(a) Not guilty 🔀 ' (b) Guilty
3	(c) Guilty but mentally ill (d) Nolo contendere
4	9. If you entered a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill to one count of an indictment or information, and a plea of not
5	guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give
6	details:
7	
8	10. If you were found guilty or guilty but mentally ill after a plea of not guilty, was the finding made by: (check one)
0	(a) Jury 🗶 (b) Judge without a jury
1	11. Did you testify at the trial? Yes 🗴 No
2	12. Did you appeal from the judgment of conviction?
13	Yes X No
14	13. If you did appeal, answer the following:  (a) Name of court: Newcon Schreve Court
15	(b) Case number or citation:  (c) Result:  (d) Potential result:
16	(d) Date of result: <u>Jone 99 2017</u> (Attach copy of order or decision, if available.)
17	14. If you did not appeal, explain briefly why you did not:
18	public defender dubnit clarify why
19	15. Other than a direct appeal from the judgment of conviction and sentence, have you previously filed any petitions,
20 21	applications or motions with respect to this judgment in any
22	16. If your answer to No. 15 was "yes," give the following
23	information:
24	(a) (1) Name of court: Newde Suprem Cailt
2 <b>4</b> 25	(2) Nature of proceeding: Motion for reheating
2 <i>5</i> 26	(3) Grounds raised: Court averledge Finance, Misappuhade
27	- MCAGUGI YEAR
28	(4) Did you receive an evidentiary hearing on your petition, application or motion? Yes No
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	(5) Result:
9 10	(3) Grounds raised:
11 12	(4) Did you receive an evidentiary hearing on your petition, application or motion? Yes No
13	(5) Result:
14	(6) Date of result:
( 15 16	(7) If known, citations of any written opinion or date of orders entered pursuant to such result:
17	(c) As to any third or subsequent additional applications
18	or motions, give the same information as above, list them on a separate sheet and attach.
19	
20	having jurisdiction, the result or action taken on any petition, application or motion?
21	(1) First petition, application or motion? Yes No
23	Citation or date of decision:
24	(2) Second petition, application or motion? Yes No
25	Citation or date of decision:
26	(3) Third or subsequent petitions, applications or
27	motions? Yes No Citation or date of decision:
'- 28	

1 2 3 4	(e) If you did not appeal from the adverse action on any petition, application or motion, explain briefly why you did not. (You must relate specific facts in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)
5	
6	17. Has any ground being raised in this petition been
7	previously presented to this or any other court by way of petition for habeas corpus, motion, application or any other postconviction proceeding? If so, identify:
8	(a) Which of the grounds is the same:
10	(b) The proceedings in which these grounds were raised:
11	(b) The proceedings in which the
12	(c) Briefly explain why you are again raising these grounds. (You must relate specific facts in response to this
13	question. Your response may be included on paper which is 0 1/2
14	exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)
15	
16	18. If any of the grounds listed in Nos. 23(a), (b), (c) and
17	(d), or listed on any additional pages you have attached, were
18	list briefly what grounds were not so presented, and give your
19	
17	in response to this question. Your response may be included on
20	in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your
	in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in
20	in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)  12. It is a charge felt to unnecessary to the period of the petition which is the pages in the pages in the pages of the pages in the pages of the pages in the pages of the pages of the pages in the pages of the pages of the pages in the pages of the pages
20 21	in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)  19. Are you filing this petition more than 1 year following the filing of the judgment of conviction or the filing of a decision on direct appeal? If so, state briefly the reasons for
20 21 22	in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)  19. Are you filing this petition more than 1 year following the filing of the judgment of conviction or the filing of a decision on direct appeal? If so, state briefly the reasons for the delay. (You must relate specific facts in response to this guestion. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2
20 21 22 23	in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)  19. Are you filing this petition more than 1 year following the filing of the judgment of conviction or the filing of a decision on direct appeal? If so, state briefly the reasons for the delay. (You must relate specific facts in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)
20 21 22 23 24	in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)  19. Are you filing this petition more than 1 year following the filing of the judgment of conviction or the filing of a decision on direct appeal? If so, state briefly the reasons for the delay. (You must relate specific facts in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)
20 21 22 23 24 25	in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)  19. Are you filing this petition more than 1 year following the filing of the judgment of conviction or the filing of a decision on direct appeal? If so, state briefly the reasons for the delay. (You must relate specific facts in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.)

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2	Yes No
3	If yes, state what court and the case number:
4	21. Give the name of each attorney who represented you in the
5	proceeding resulting in your conviction and on direct appeal:  truel tenetice proper Slafe Conner - Lirect appeal William
6	_ was
7 8	22. Do you have any future sentences to serve after you complete the sentence imposed by the judgment under attack?  Yes No _X
9	If yes, specify where and when it is to be served, if you know:
0	23. State concisely every ground on which you claim that you
1	are being held unlawfully. Summarize briefly the facts supporting each ground. If necessary you may attach pages
12	stating additional grounds and facts supporting same.
3	(a) Ground one: States witnesses Holland, Schrzer, and
14	resulted in most in
15	Supporting FACTS (Tell your story briefly without citing cases or law.): During fire Side purhases & Arech
16 17	citing cases or law.): During trich State witnesses & direct yeurtnessess' Medicat, Solozer Hilderbrank gove blotcatly Controllicting & inconsistent testimonies & accounts of events when should have warrented a mistries.
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22	(b) Ground two: ineffective asistence of acusal.
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24	Supporting FACTS (Tell your story briefly without citing cases or law.): <u>lycol Counsel weeks</u> aboused a const
25	chyecting to or reting stole intresses inconsistant distincting.
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•	3	(c) Ground three: <u>ineffetive</u> assistance of ecunsel.
	4	(0) 010a.a 01100 <u>                                    </u>
	5	Supporting FACTS (Tell your story briefly without
	6	citing cases or law.): copeal chomey forled to bring up
	7	les prohibiting a Self-Defense, before when there is
	8	Poicence to Skin.
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	12	(d) Ground four: ineffective assistance of awasel
	13	- (d) Ground rour. Therescate days are
	14	Supporting FACTS (Tell your story briefly without
(	15	citing cases or law.): appeal afformey never relatives  defendent of conflusion of rehearing motion.
	16	CELEBOATE BY COOLINSTON OF TENERALLY CONTROL
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	21	WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that the court grant petitioner
•	22	relief to which he may be entitled in this proceeding.
	23	EXECUTED at Lovelock Correctional Center on the 20 day of the month of Mark of the year 2014.
	24	The same of the sa
	25	Pinentel Lux @ #1,44469 Lovelock Correctional Center
	26	1200 Prison Road Lovelock, Nevada 89419
	27	Petitioner In Pro Se
1.	28	

### VERIFICATION

Under penalty of perjury, the undersigned declares that he is the petitioner named in the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof; that the pleading is true of his own knowledge, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and as to such matters he believes them to be true. 5 #<u>//५५५</u>५ imented Luss Lovelock Correctional Center 6 1200 Prison Road Lovelock, Nevada 89419 Petitioner In Pro Se 8 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY MAIL 9 hereby certify, pursuant to 5(b), that on this \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify, pursuant to 5(b), that on this \_\_\_\_\_, day of the month of \_\_\_\_\_ of the year 2010, I mailed a true and correct the foregoing PETITION FOR WELL OF WARDEN CO. Pimentel Luis 10 11 copy of the foregoing PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS 12 addressed to: Bakec Warden 13 Lovelock Correctional Center 1200 Prison Road 14 Lovelock, Nevada 15 Adam Paul Laxal Nevada Attorney General 16 100 N. Carson Street Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717 17 18 Arc WOLFSON County District Attorney 19 LEIDIS AVE V2CAS , Nevada 89 155 20 (District Attorney of County of Conviction) -21 22 23 intotel Les Lovelock Correctional Center 1200 Prison Road 24 Lovelock, Nevada 89419 25 Petitioner In Pro Se 26 27

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There \_\_\_ are \_\_ are not additional facts in support of this motion attached hereto on separate page(s).

Counsel would assist Petitioner with a clearer presentation of his issues before this Court and would likewise facilitate and ease this Court's task of discerning the issues and adjudicating same upon their merits.

Discretion lies with the Court to appoint counsel under NRS 34.750. Crump v. Warden, 113 Nev. 293, 934 P.2d 247, 254 (1997). The Court is to consider: (1) the complexity of the issues; (2) whether Petitioner comprehends the issues; (3) whether counsel is necessary to conduct discovery; and (4) the severity of Petitioner's sentence. NRS 34.750(1)-(1)(c).

Under similar discretionary standards, Federal courts are encouraged to appoint counsel when the interests of justice so require - a showing which increases proportionately with the increased complexities of the case and the penalties involved in the conviction. Chaney v. Lewis, 801 F.2d 1191, 1196 (9th Cir. 1986). Attorneys should be appointed for indigent petitioners who cannot "adequately present their own cases." Jeffers v. Lewis, 68 F.3d 295, 297-98 (9th Cir. 1995).

Although Petitioner need meet but one (1) of the enumerated criteria of NRS 34.750 in order to merit appointment of counsel, he meets all of them. He also presents a classic example of one meriting counsel under the interest of justice test bespoken by the Ninth Circuit. Indeed, Petitioner's sentence, coupled with the other factors set forth above, demonstrate that appointment of counsel to him would not only satisfy justice, but fundamental fairness, as well.

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# CONCLUSION 2 For the reasons set forth above, the Court should appoint counsel to represent Petitioner in and for all further proceedings in this habeas corpus action. Dated this 20 day of March 1200 Prison Road Lovelock, Nevada Petitioner In Pro Se CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE I do certify that I mailed a true and correct copy of the foregoing MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL to the below address on this $20^4$ day of mach, 20 19, by placing same in the U.S. Mail via prison law library staff: Attorney For Respondent Petitioner In Pro Se AFFIRMATION PURSUANT TO NRS 239B.030 The undersigned does hereby affirm that the preceding MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL DOES not contain the social security number of any person. Dated this 24 day of March

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Petitioner In Pro Se

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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA FILED MAY 1.6.2019

LUIS PIMENTEL,

Petitioner,

Respondent,

-vs-WARDEN BAKER, CASE NO:

A-19-793359-W

DEPT NO:

*(C-14-296234* V

ORDER FOR PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

Petitioner filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Post-Conviction Relief) on April 22, 2019. The Court has reviewed the Petition and has determined that a response would assist the Court in determining whether Petitioner is illegally imprisoned and restrained of his/her liberty, and good cause appearing therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent shall, within 45 days after the date of filing this Order, answer or otherwise respond to the Petition and file a return in accordance with the provisions of NRS 34.360 to 34.830, inclusive, and a printed courtesy copy **SHALL** be delivered to chambers upon filing.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that this matter shall be placed on this Court's Calendar on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2019, at the hour of 9:00A.M. for further proceedings.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2019.

DISTRICA JUDGE

A - 19 - 793359 - W

OPWH

Order for Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpu

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**Electronically Filed** 7/1/2019 1:00 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **OPPS** STEVEN B. WOLFSON 2 Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565 3 JONATHAN VANBOSKERCK Chief Deputy District Attorney 4 Nevada Bar #006528 200 Lewis Avenue 5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-2212 (702) 671-2500 6 Attorney for Respondent 7 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 8 9 LUIS PIMENTEL, aka, Luis Godofredo Pimentel, III, 10 #1444838 11 Petitioner, CASE NO: A-19-793359-W 12 -vs-DEPT NO: V 13 THE STATE OF NEVADA 14 Respondent. 15 STATE'S OPPOSITION TO PETITIONER'S PETITION 16 FOR POST-CONVICTION RELIEF 17 DATE OF HEARING: JULY 22, 2019 TIME OF HEARING: 9:00 AM 18 19 COMES NOW, the State of Nevada, by STEVEN B. WOLFSON, Clark County 20 District Attorney, through JONATHAN VANBOSKERCK, Chief Deputy District Attorney, 21 and moves this Honorable Court for an order denying the Defendant's Petition for Post-22 Conviction Relief heretofore filed in the above entitled matter. 23 This Opposition is made and based upon all the papers and pleadings on file herein, the 24 attached points and authorities in support hereof, and oral argument at the time of hearing, if 25 deemed necessary by this Honorable Court. 26 ///

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## POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On February 28, 2014, the State filed an Information charging Luis Pimentel ("Petitioner") with Count 1 – Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon (Category A Felony – NRS 200.010, 200.030.1, 193.165) and Count 2 – Carrying Concealed Firearm or Other Deadly Weapon (Category C Felony – NRS 202.350(1)(d)(3)).

On July 9, 2014, Petitioner filed a pre-trial Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus. The State filed its Return on July 25, 2014. Petitioner filed his Reply on August 6, 2014. On August 11, 2014, the court denied the Petition. The court entered the Order on August 27, 2014. On August 19, 2014, Petitioner filed an Emergency Petition for Writ of Prohibition/Mandamus. Subsequently, the State filed its Answer. On September 24, 2014, the Nevada Supreme Court filed an Order Granting Petition in Part, ordering that the Challenge-to-Fight language be stricken from the Information because it was not sufficiently pleaded. On October 6, 2014, the State filed a Motion to Amend Information to specifically plead the Challenge-to-Fight theory of liability. Petitioner filed his Opposition on October 15, 2014. The State filed its Reply on October 17, 2014. The court granted the State's Motion to Amend on October 22, 2014. On May 4, 2015, the State filed an Amended Information with the same charges and clarified the challenge-to-fight theory pursuant to the Nevada Supreme Court order.

On September 8, 2014, Petitioner filed a Motion to Suppress Defendant's Statement. The State filed its Opposition on September 18, 2014. The court held a hearing and denied Petitioner's Motion on October 7, 2014.

On May 11, 2015, Petitioner's jury trial commenced. On May 27, 2015, the jury found Petitioner guilty of First Degree Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon and not guilty of Carrying Concealed Firearm or Other Deadly Weapon. On July 17, 2015, the court sentenced Petitioner to 20 to 50 years, plus a consecutive term of 32 to 144 months for the deadly weapon enhancement. The court entered the Judgment of Conviction on August 7, 2015.

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Petitioner filed his Notice of Appeal on August 25, 2015. After the parties completed briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court issued a unanimous En Banc order affirming Petitioner's Judgment of Conviction on June 22, 2017. On July 6, 2017, Petitioner filed a Petition for Rehearing. After briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court denied Petitioner's appeal on December 19, 2017. On January 17, 2018, remittitur issued. The district court received the remittitur on January 25, 2018. Petitioner executed and mailed his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus on March 20, 2019. The Petitioner filed his Petition about a month later, on April 22, 2019.

### <u>ARGUMENT</u>

# I. PETITIONER WAIVED HIS SUFFICIENCY OF THE EVIDENCE ARGUMENT BY NOT RAISING IT ON APPEAL

NRS 34.810(1) reads:

The court shall dismiss a petition if the court determines that:

- (a) The petitioner's conviction was upon a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill and the petition is not based upon an allegation that the plea was involuntarily or unknowingly or that the plea was entered without effective assistance of counsel.
- (b) The petitioner's conviction was the result of a trial and the grounds for the petition could have been:
- (2) Raised in a direct appeal or a prior petition for a writ of habeas corpus or postconviction relief.

The Nevada Supreme Court has held that "challenges to the validity of a guilty plea and claims of ineffective assistance of trial and appellate counsel must first be pursued in post-conviction proceedings.... [A]ll other claims that are appropriate for a direct appeal must be pursued on direct appeal, or they will be *considered waived in subsequent proceedings*." Franklin v. State, 110 Nev. 750, 752, 877 P.2d 1058, 1059 (1994) (emphasis added) (disapproved on other grounds by Thomas v. State, 115 Nev. 148, 979 P.2d 222 (1999)).

"A court must dismiss a habeas petition if it presents claims that either were or could have been presented in an earlier proceeding, unless the court finds both cause for failing to present the claims earlier or for raising them again and actual prejudice to the petitioner." Evans v. State, 117 Nev. 609, 646-47, 29 P.3d 498, 523 (2001).

Petitioner's first claim is waived because it is not suitable for a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus. Petitioner advances a veritable sufficiency of the evidence claim in Ground one. Petition at 6. ("state witnesses...blatantly contradict[ed]...events which should have warranted a mistrial."). This claim appears to sound in sufficient evidence and whether the Court should have granted a mistrial. This claim should have been raised on direct appeal because it does not allege ineffective assistance of counsel. Thus, Petitioner's claim is waived as to this Petition.

Petitioner's Ground one is waived.

### II. THE PETITION IS TIME-BARRED AND MUST BE DENIED

Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus is time barred with no good cause shown for delay. Pursuant to NRS 34.726(1):

Unless there is good cause shown for delay, a petition that challenges the validity of a judgment or sentence must be filed within I year of the entry of the judgment of conviction or, if an appeal has been taken from the judgment, within I year after the Supreme Court issues its remittitur. For the purposes of this subsection, good cause for delay exists if the petitioner demonstrates to the satisfaction of the court:

(a) That the delay is not the fault of the petitioner; and
(b) That dismissal of the petition as untimely will unduly prejudice the petitioner.

The Supreme Court of Nevada has held that NRS 34.726 should be construed by its plain meaning. Pellegrini v. State, 117 Nev. 860, 873-74, 34 P.3d 519, 528 (2001). As per the language of the statute, the one-year time bar proscribed by NRS 34.726 begins to run from the date the judgment of conviction is filed or a remittitur from a timely direct appeal is filed. Dickerson v. State, 114 Nev. 1084, 1087, 967 P.2d 1132, 1133-34 (1998).

The one-year time limit for preparing petitions for post-conviction relief under NRS 34.726 is strictly applied. In <u>Gonzales v. State</u>, 118 Nev. 590, 596, 53 P.3d 901, 904 (2002), the Nevada Supreme Court rejected a habeas petition that was filed two days late despite evidence presented by the defendant that he purchased postage through the prison and mailed the Notice within the one-year time limit.

Furthermore, the Nevada Supreme Court has held that the district court has a *duty* to consider whether a defendant's post-conviction petition claims are procedurally barred. State v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court (Riker), 121 Nev. 225, 231, 112 P.3d 1070, 1074 (2005). The Riker Court found that "[a]pplication of the statutory procedural default rules to post-conviction habeas petitions is mandatory," noting:

Habeas corpus petitions that are filed many years after conviction are an unreasonable burden on the criminal justice system. The necessity for a workable system dictates that there must exist a time when a criminal conviction is final.

<u>Id.</u> Additionally, the Court noted that procedural bars "cannot be ignored [by the district court] when properly raised by the State." <u>Id.</u> at 233, 112 P.3d at 1075. The Nevada Supreme Court has granted no discretion to the district courts regarding whether to apply the statutory procedural bars; the rules *must* be applied.

Petitioner's Petition is time barred. After the parties completed briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court issued a unanimous En Banc order affirming Petitioner's Judgment of Conviction on June 22, 2017. On July 6, 2017, Petitioner filed a Petition for Rehearing. After briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court denied Petitioner's Petition on December 19, 2017. On January 17, 2018, remittitur issued. The district court received the remittitur on January 25, 2018. Petitioner executed and mailed his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus on March 20, 2019. The Petitioner filed his Petition about a month later, on April 22, 2019. Petitioner had until January 18, 2019, to Petition the Court. By either measure, mail date or file date, Petitioner failed to petition the Court in time.

The Court must find that the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus is time barred.

# III. PETITIONER HAS NOT ASSERTED GOOD CAUSE SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME THE PROCEDURAL BARS

A showing of good cause and prejudice may the overcome procedural bars. "To establish good cause, defendants *must* show that an impediment external to the defense prevented their compliance with the applicable procedural rule. A qualifying impediment

might be shown where the factual or legal basis for a claim was not reasonably available at the time of default." Clem v. State, 119 Nev. 615, 621, 81 P.3d 521, 525 (2003) (emphasis added). The Court continued, "appellants cannot attempt to manufacture good cause[.]" Id. at 621, 81 P.3d at 526. Examples of good cause include interference by State officials and the previous unavailability of a legal or factual basis. See State v. Huebler, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. 19, 275 P.3d 91, 95 (2012).

Petitioner does not assert good cause sufficient to overcome the time bar. Petitioner had all of the facts and law available to him at the appropriate times to file his Petition timely. But instead, Petitioner slept on his rights. The Court should not reward this dilatory conduct. Petitioner alleges that that he "was told" that he had to wait after the resolution of his Motion for Rehearing. Petition at 5. It is true that Petitioner needed to wait until the resolution of his Petition for Rehearing to file the instant Petition. Until the Nevada Supreme Court issued the remittitur, the Court would be without jurisdiction to entertain a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus. This true statement aside, knowledge of the Petition for Rehearing cannot constitute good cause to overcome the time bars because it is not an impediment external to the defense and is not a relevant trigger event of the one-year period. Petitioner had from January 2018 to file his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus and he did not. This time period had nothing to do with the denial of his Petition for Rehearing. The Petition for Rehearing did not prevent him from petitioning the Court during this year after the Nevada Supreme Court decided his Petition for Rehearing.

The Court must find that Petitioner has not advanced good cause to overcome the time bar.

# IV. PETITIONER HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED PREJUDICE SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME THE PROCEDURAL BARS

In order to establish prejudice, the Petitioner must show "not merely that the errors of [the proceedings] created possibility of prejudice, but that they worked to his actual and substantial disadvantage, in affecting the state proceedings with error of constitutional

dimensions." <u>Hogan v. Warden</u>, 109 Nev. 952, 960, 860 P.2d 710, 716 (1993) (quoting <u>United States v. Frady</u>, 456 U.S. 152, 170, 102 S. Ct. 1584, 1596 (1982)).

Petitioner alleges four different grounds. Petition at 6-7.

a. Petitioner's Inconsistent Witness Claim, a Veritable Sufficiency of the Evidence Claim, is a Bare and Naked Allegation that Cannot Constitute Prejudice Sufficient to Overcome the Procedural Bars

The Nevada Supreme Court has held "that a habeas corpus petitioner must prove the disputed factual allegations underlying his ineffective-assistance claim by a preponderance of the evidence." Means v. State, 120 Nev. 1001, 1012, 103 P.3d 25, 33 (2004). Furthermore, claims of ineffective assistance of counsel asserted in a petition for post-conviction relief must be supported with specific factual allegations, which if true, would entitle the petitioner to relief. Hargrove v. State, 100 Nev. 498, 502, 686 P.2d 222, 225 (1984). "Bare" and "naked" allegations are not sufficient, nor are those belied and repelled by the record. Id. NRS 34.735(6) states in relevant part, "[Petitioner] must allege specific facts supporting the claims in the petition[.]... Failure to allege specific facts rather than just conclusions may cause your petition to be dismissed." (emphasis added).

Petitioner's allegations in Ground one, Petition at 6, are no more than bare and naked allegations suitable for summary denial under <u>Hargrove</u>. Despite alleging inconsistent witnesses, Petitioner does not demonstrate how these witnesses were inconsistent nor does he explain how these allegations would, if true, would have entitled him to any relief in this case. Moreover, the jury reviewed the testimony of these allegedly inconsistent witnesses and still convicted Petitioner. Petitioner cannot transform what is really a credibility determination into relief here, subject to the jury's decision and not review by the Court. Even if the witnesses were inconsistent, *arguendo*, Petitioner offers no authority for the proposition that the jury could not still convict him—and they still have that ability.

These allegations cannot constitute prejudice to overcome the procedural bars.

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### b. Trial Counsel's Strategic Decision not to Challenge Alleged Inconsistent Statements by Witnesses Cannot Serve as Prejudice Sufficient to Overcome the Procedural Bars

"There are countless ways to provide effective assistance in any given case. Even the best criminal defense attorneys would not defend a particular client in the same way." Strickland, 466 U.S. at 689, 104 S. Ct. at 689. "Strategic choices made by counsel after thoroughly investigating the plausible options are almost unchallengeable." Dawson v. State, 108 Nev. 112, 117, 825 P.2d 593, 596 (1992); see also Ford v. State, 105 Nev. 850, 853, 784 P.2d 951, 953 (1989). In essence, the court must "judge the reasonableness of counsel's challenged conduct on the facts of the particular case, viewed as of the time of counsel's conduct." Strickland, 466 U.S. at 690, 104 S. Ct. at 2066.

Ground two cannot serve as prejudice. See Petition at 6. In this ground, Petitioner informs the Court that his trial attorney "advised against objecting to or noting [that the] state['s] witnesses inconsistent[ly] testified." Id. Petitioner's allegations, if taken as true by the Court, are unreviewable strategic decisions that cannot constitute prejudice to overcome the procedural bars. Moreover, Petitioner—again—does not demonstrate how these witnesses were inconsistent nor does he explain how these allegations would, if true, entitle him to any relief in this case. Petitioner fails to recognize the inherent reality that when to object at trial is an art that most attorneys do differently. In other words, when to object is a determination that cannot be reviewed by a court. Rhyne v. State, 118 Nev. 1, 8, 38 P.3d 163, 167 (2002) (trial counsel has the "immediate and ultimate responsibility of deciding if and when to object, which witnesses, if any, to call, and what defenses to develop."). Moreover, it is not clear that the rules of evidence allow for at attorney to object for an inconsistency when compared to other witnesses. Petitioner has not provided any authority for this proposition.

Ground two cannot serve as prejudice sufficient to overcome the procedural bars.

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### c. Petitioner's Naked Allegation that Trial Counsel Ineffectively Represented him on Appeal Cannot Serve as a Prejudice Sufficient to Overcome the One-Year Time Bar

There is a strong presumption that appellate counsel's performance was reasonable and fell within "the wide range of reasonable professional assistance." See United States v. Aguirre, 912 F.2d 555, 560 (2nd Cir. 1990); citing Strickland, 466 U.S. at 689, 104 S. Ct. at 2065. A claim of ineffective assistance of appellate counsel must satisfy the two-prong test set forth by Strickland. Kirksey v. State, 112 Nev. 980, 998, 923 P.2d 1102, 1114 (1996). In order to satisfy Strickland's second prong, the defendant must show that the omitted issue would have had a reasonable probability of success on appeal. Id.

The professional diligence and competence required on appeal involves "winnowing out weaker arguments on appeal and focusing on one central issue if possible, or at most on a few key issues." <u>Jones v. Barnes</u>, 463 U.S. 745, 751-52, 103 S. Ct. 3308, 3313 (1983). In particular, a "brief that raises every colorable issue runs the risk of burying good arguments . . . in a verbal mound made up of strong and weak contentions." <u>Id.</u> at 753, 103 S. Ct. at 3313. For judges to second-guess reasonable professional judgments and impose on appointed counsel a duty to raise every 'colorable' claim suggested by a client would disserve the very goal of vigorous and effective advocacy." <u>Id.</u> at 754, 103 S. Ct. at 3314.

As a matter of law, Petitioner's allegations in Ground three cannot constitute prejudice sufficient to overcome the procedural bars. Petitioner alleges in Ground three that his appellate attorney failed to cite to other jurisdictions that have found that it is illegal to prohibit a self-defense argument, apparently in his factual scenario. Petition at 7. Ignoring for the moment that this allegation cannot escape <a href="Hargrove">Hargrove</a>'s reach—Petitioner does not inform the Court of any decision from any jurisdiction for this proposition of law—an appellate attorney's job on appeal is to narrow out weaker issues. It is unclear how citing other, non-binding, jurisdictions, likely not interpreting Nevada law, would have—at all—changed the result of the proceeding on appeal. This type of argument would have been comparing apples to automobiles.

This issue looks even weaker when reviewing the appellate brief filed by Appellate counsel at the Nevada Supreme Court. The record on appeal shows that Petitioner's appellate counsel did challenge the trial court's denial of a self-defense instruction in the Opening Brief, by trying to distinguish Petitioner's factual scenario from—binding—Nevada case law. <u>Luis PETITIONER</u>, Appellant, v. THE STATE OF NEVADA, Respondent., 2016 WL 1298579 (Nev.), 43. Appellate counsel wisely chose to not attempt to convince the Nevada Supreme Court to rely on irrelevant and non-binding case law where Nevada case law bound the court, case law interpreting Nevada authority, and instead wisely focused on squarely addressing existing binding case law and distinguishing Petitioner's factual scenario.

Petitioner's allegations in Ground three come woefully short of providing prejudice to overcome the procedural bars.

d. Petitioner's Bare and Naked Allegation that Appellate Counsel did not Inform him of the Denial of his Petition for Re-Hearing Cannot Serve as Prejudice to Overcome the Procedural Bars

The Nevada Supreme Court has held "that a habeas corpus petitioner must prove the disputed factual allegations underlying his ineffective-assistance claim by a preponderance of the evidence." Means, 120 Nev. at 1012, 103 P.3d at 33. Furthermore, claims of ineffective assistance of counsel asserted in a petition for post-conviction relief must be supported with specific factual allegations, which if true, would entitle the petitioner to relief. Hargrove, 100 Nev. at 502, 686 P.2d at 225.

Petitioner's allegations in Ground four do not, if true, entitle him to relief. Accepting Petitioner's allegations as true in Ground four, that he did not receive notice of the Nevada Supreme Court's denial of his Petition for Rehearing, Petition at 4. This event is not relevant whatsoever to his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus. Petitioner appears to be trying to create a separate claim out of his good cause allegation as it is nearly identical to the reason he proffered as good cause to overcome the time bar. Petition at 4. But the Petition for Rehearing is not relevant to any stand-alone claim of ineffective assistance of counsel because it does not relate to the merits of his case. And even looking at Ground four in the context of good cause

it is not relevant: the remittitur is the triggering event for the time to run on the procedural bars—not the Petition for Rehearing. NRS 34.726(1).

Petitioner's Ground four cannot establish prejudice to overcome the procedural bar.

# V. THE COURT SHOULD NOT EXERCISE ITS DISCRETION TO APPOINT COUNSEL

Under the U.S. Constitution, the Sixth Amendment provides no right to counsel in post-conviction proceedings. Coleman v. Thompson, 501 U.S. 722, 752, 111 S. Ct. 2546, 2566 (1991). In McKague v. Warden, 112 Nev. 159, 163, 912 P.2d 255, 258 (1996), the Nevada Supreme Court similarly observed that "[t]he Nevada Constitution...does not guarantee a right to counsel in post-conviction proceedings, as we interpret the Nevada Constitution's right to counsel provision as being coextensive with the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution." McKague specifically held that with the exception of NRS 34.820(1)(a) (entitling appointed counsel when petitioner is under a sentence of death), one does not have "any constitutional or statutory right to counsel at all" in post-conviction proceedings. Id. at 164, 912 P.2d at 258.

However, the Nevada Legislature has given courts the discretion to appoint post-conviction counsel so long as "the court is satisfied that the allegation of indigency is true and the petition is not dismissed summarily." NRS 34.750. NRS 34.750 reads:

A petition may allege that the Defendant is unable to pay the costs of the proceedings or employ counsel. If the court is satisfied that the allegation of indigency is true and the petition is not dismissed summarily, the court may appoint counsel at the time the court orders the filing of an answer and a return. In making its determination, the court may consider whether:

- (a) The issues are difficult;
- (b) The Defendant is unable to comprehend the proceedings;
- (c) Counsel is necessary to proceed with discovery.

(emphasis added).

Under NRS 34.750, it is clear that the court has discretion in determining whether to appoint counsel. It should deny the Motion as this Petition will not be difficult to resolve since

1	it is procedurally barred without sufficient good cause and prejudice to ignore the procedural
2	defaults.
3	CONCLUSION
4	For the foregoing reasons, the Court should deny Petitioner's relief.
5	DATED this day of July, 2019.
6	Respectfully submitted,
7	STEVEN B. WOLFSON
8	Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565
9	By faller Panduhhl (for)
10	JONATHAN VANBOSKERCK
11	Chief Deputy District Attorney Nevada Bar #006528
12	
13	CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
14	I hereby certify that service of the above and foregoing was made this day of
15	, 2019, by depositing a copy in the U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, addressed
16	to:
17	LUIS PIMENTEL BAC #1144889
18	LOVELOCK CORRECTIONAL CENTER 1200 PRISON ROAD
19	LOVELOCK, NEVADA 89419
20	$\Omega$
21	BY: V. ROBERTSON Secretary for the District Attorney's Office
22	Secretary for the District Attorney's Office
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**Electronically Filed** 8/16/2019 2:25 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **FCL** 2 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 3 4 LUIS PIMENTEL, aka. Luis Godofredo Pimentel, III. 5 #1444838 6 Petitioner, CASE NO: A-19-793359-W 7 -VS-DEPT NO: 8 THE STATE OF NEVADA 9 Respondent. 10 FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER 11 12 DATE OF HEARING: JULY 22, 2019 TIME OF HEARING: 8:30 AM 13 THIS CAUSE having come on for hearing before the Honorable CAROLYN 14 ELLSWORTH, District Judge, on the 22nd day of July, 2019, the petitioner not being 15 present, PROCEEDING IN PROPER PERSON, the respondent being represented by 16 STEVEN B. WOLFSON, Clark County District Attorney, by and through VIVIAN 17 LUONG, Chief Deputy District Attorney, and the Court having considered the matter 18 without argument, now therefore, the Court makes the following findings of fact and 19 conclusions of law: 20 PROCEDURAL HISTORY 21 On February 28, 2014, the State filed an Information charging Luis Pimentel 22 ("Petitioner") with Count 1 – Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon (Category A Felony – 23 NRS 200.010, 200.030.1, 193.165) and Count 2 - Carrying Concealed Firearm or Other 24 Deadly Weapon (Category C Felony – NRS 202.350(1)(d)(3)). 25 On July 9, 2014, Petitioner filed a pre-trial Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus. The 26

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State filed its Return on July 25, 2014. Petitioner filed his Reply on August 6, 2014. On

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August 11, 2014, the court denied the Petition. The court entered the Order on August 27, 2014. On August 19, 2014, Petitioner filed an Emergency Petition for Writ of Prohibition/Mandamus. Subsequently, the State filed its Answer. On September 24, 2014, the Nevada Supreme Court filed an Order Granting Petition in Part, ordering that the Challenge-to-Fight language be stricken from the Information because it was not sufficiently pleaded. On October 6, 2014, the State filed a Motion to Amend Information to specifically plead the Challenge-to-Fight theory of liability. Petitioner filed his Opposition on October 15, 2014. The State filed its Reply on October 17, 2014. The court granted the State's Motion to Amend on October 22, 2014. On May 4, 2015, the State filed an Amended Information with the same charges and clarified the challenge-to-fight theory pursuant to the Nevada Supreme Court order.

On September 8, 2014, Petitioner filed a Motion to Suppress Defendant's Statement. The State filed its Opposition on September 18, 2014. The court held a hearing and denied Petitioner's Motion on October 7, 2014.

On May 11, 2015, Petitioner's jury trial commenced. On May 27, 2015, the jury found Petitioner guilty of First Degree Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon and not guilty of Carrying Concealed Firearm or Other Deadly Weapon. On July 17, 2015, the court sentenced Petitioner to 20 to 50 years, plus a consecutive term of 32 to 144 months for the deadly weapon enhancement. The court entered the Judgment of Conviction on August 7, 2015.

Petitioner filed his Notice of Appeal on August 25, 2015. After the parties completed briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court issued a unanimous En Banc order affirming Petitioner's Judgment of Conviction on June 22, 2017. On July 6, 2017, Petitioner filed a Petition for Rehearing. After briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court denied Petitioner's appeal on December 19, 2017. On January 17, 2018, remittitur issued. The district court received the remittitur on January 25, 2018. Petitioner executed and mailed his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus on March 20, 2019. The Petitioner filed his Petition about a month later, on

April 22, 2019. The State filed an Opposition to the Petition on July 1, 2019. The Petition came up for hearing before the Court on July 22, 2019.

### **ANALYSIS**

### I. THE PETITION IS TIME-BARRED AND MUST BE DENIED

Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus is time barred with no good cause shown for delay. Pursuant to NRS 34.726(1):

Unless there is good cause shown for delay, a petition that challenges the validity of a judgment or sentence must be filed within I year of the entry of the judgment of conviction or, if an appeal has been taken from the judgment, within I year after the Supreme Court issues its remittitur. For the purposes of this subsection, good cause for delay exists if the petitioner demonstrates to the satisfaction of the court:

(a) That the delay is not the fault of the petitioner; and

(a) That the delay is not the fault of the petitioner; and(b) That dismissal of the petition as untimely will unduly prejudice the petitioner.

The Supreme Court of Nevada has held that NRS 34.726 should be construed by its plain meaning. Pellegrini v. State, 117 Nev. 860, 873-74, 34 P.3d 519, 528 (2001). As per the language of the statute, the one-year time bar proscribed by NRS 34.726 begins to run from the date the judgment of conviction is filed or a remittitur from a timely direct appeal is filed. Dickerson v. State, 114 Nev. 1084, 1087, 967 P.2d 1132, 1133-34 (1998).

The one-year time limit for preparing petitions for post-conviction relief under NRS 34.726 is strictly applied. In <u>Gonzales v. State</u>, 118 Nev. 590, 596, 53 P.3d 901, 904 (2002), the Nevada Supreme Court rejected a habeas petition that was filed two days late despite evidence presented by the defendant that he purchased postage through the prison and mailed the Notice within the one-year time limit.

Furthermore, the Nevada Supreme Court has held that the district court has a *duty* to consider whether a defendant's post-conviction petition claims are procedurally barred. <u>State v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court (Riker)</u>, 121 Nev. 225, 231, 112 P.3d 1070, 1074 (2005). The <u>Riker Court found that "[a]pplication of the statutory procedural default rules to post-</u>

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conviction habeas petitions is mandatory," noting:

Habeas corpus petitions that are filed many years after conviction are an unreasonable burden on the criminal justice system. The necessity for a workable system dictates that there must exist a time when a criminal conviction is final.

<u>Id.</u> Additionally, the Court noted that procedural bars "cannot be ignored [by the district court] when properly raised by the State." <u>Id.</u> at 233, 112 P.3d at 1075. The Nevada Supreme Court has granted no discretion to the district courts regarding whether to apply the statutory procedural bars; the rules *must* be applied.

Petitioner's Petition is time barred. After the parties completed briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court issued a unanimous En Banc order affirming Petitioner's Judgment of Conviction on June 22, 2017. On July 6, 2017, Petitioner filed a Petition for Rehearing. After briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court denied Petitioner's Petition on December 19, 2017. On January 17, 2018, remittitur issued. The district court received the remittitur on January 25, 2018. Petitioner executed and mailed his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus on March 20, 2019. The Petitioner filed his Petition about a month later, on April 22, 2019. Petitioner had until January 18, 2019, to Petition the Court. By either measure, mail date or file date, Petitioner failed to petition the Court in time.

The Court finds that the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus is time barred.

# II. PETITIONER HAS NOT ASSERTED GOOD CAUSE SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME THE PROCEDURAL BARS

A showing of good cause and prejudice may the overcome procedural bars. "To establish good cause, defendants *must* show that an impediment external to the defense prevented their compliance with the applicable procedural rule. A qualifying impediment might be shown where the factual or legal basis for a claim was not reasonably available at the time of default." Clem v. State, 119 Nev. 615, 621, 81 P.3d 521, 525 (2003) (emphasis added). The Court continued, "appellants cannot attempt to manufacture good cause[.]" Id. at 621, 81 P.3d at 526. Examples of good cause include interference by State officials and the

previous unavailability of a legal or factual basis. See State v. Huebler, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. 19, 275 P.3d 91, 95 (2012).

Petitioner does not assert good cause sufficient to overcome the time bar. Petitioner had all of the facts and law available to him at the appropriate times to file his Petition timely. But instead, Petitioner slept on his rights. The Court will not reward this dilatory conduct. Petitioner alleges that that he "was told" that he had to wait after the resolution of his Motion for Rehearing. Petition at 5. It is true that Petitioner needed to wait until the resolution of his Petition for Rehearing to file the instant Petition. Until the Nevada Supreme Court issued the remittitur, the Court would be without jurisdiction to entertain a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus. This true statement aside, knowledge of the Petition for Rehearing cannot constitute good cause to overcome the time bar because it is not an impediment external to the defense and is not a relevant trigger event of the one-year period. Petitioner had from January 2018 until January 2019 to file his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus and he did not. This time period had nothing to do with the denial of his Petition for Rehearing. The Petition for Rehearing did not prevent him from petitioning the Court during this year after the Nevada Supreme Court decided his Petition for Rehearing.

The Court finds that Petitioner has not advanced good cause to overcome the time bar.

# III. THE COURT DECLINES TO EXERCISE ITS DISCRETION TO APPOINT COUNSEL FOR PETITIONER

Under the U.S. Constitution, the Sixth Amendment provides no right to counsel in post-conviction proceedings. <u>Coleman v. Thompson</u>, 501 U.S. 722, 752, 111 S. Ct. 2546, 2566 (1991). In <u>McKague v. Warden</u>, 112 Nev. 159, 163, 912 P.2d 255, 258 (1996), the Nevada Supreme Court similarly observed that "[t]he Nevada Constitution...does not guarantee a right to counsel in post-conviction proceedings, as we interpret the Nevada Constitution's right to counsel provision as being coextensive with the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution." <u>McKague</u> specifically held that with the exception of NRS 34.820(1)(a) (entitling appointed counsel when petitioner is under a sentence of death), one

does not have "any constitutional or statutory right to counsel at all" in post-conviction proceedings. <u>Id.</u> at 164, 912 P.2d at 258.

However, the Nevada Legislature has given courts the discretion to appoint post-conviction counsel so long as "the court is satisfied that the allegation of indigency is true and the petition is not dismissed summarily." NRS 34.750. NRS 34.750 reads:

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- (a) The issues are difficult;
- (b) The Defendant is unable to comprehend the proceedings;
- (c) Counsel is necessary to proceed with discovery.

(emphasis added).

Under NRS 34.750, it is clear that the court has discretion in determining whether to appoint counsel. Here, the Court declines to exercise its discretion to entertain counsel; this Petition is not difficult to resolve: it is procedurally barred without sufficient good cause and prejudice to ignore the procedural defaults.

### **ORDER**

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Petition for Post-Conviction Relief shall be, and it is, hereby denied.

DATED this <u>//e /r</u> day of August, 2019.

DISTRICT JUDGE

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on or about the date filed he served the foregoing Order by faxing, mailing, or electronically serving a copy to counsel as listed below:

STEVEN B. WOLFSON Johnathan Vanboskerck, Esq. Clark County District Attorney

Luis Pimentel #1144889 Lovelock Correctional Center 1200 Prison Rd Lovelock, NV 89419 Defendant

Dunan Janesin

Sal Heredia, Relief Judicial Executive Assistant

#### AFFIRMATION

Pursuant to NRS 239B.030

The undersigned does hereby affirm that the preceding Order filed in District Court case

number A793359 DOES NOT contain the social security number of any person.

/s/ Carolyn Ellsworth Date 8/16/19 \$>

**Electronically Filed** 8/19/2019 9:09 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

**NEO** 

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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

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5 LUIS PIMENTEL,

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VS.

WARDEN BAKER,

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Case No: A-19-793359-W

Dept No: V

Respondent,

Petitioner,

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on August 16, 2019, the court entered a decision or order in this matter, a true and correct copy of which is attached to this notice.

You may appeal to the Supreme Court from the decision or order of this court. If you wish to appeal, you must file a notice of appeal with the clerk of this court within thirty-three (33) days after the date this notice is mailed to you. This notice was mailed on August 19, 2019.

STEVEN D. GRIERSON, CLERK OF THE COURT

/s/ Debra Donaldson

Debra Donaldson, Deputy Clerk

#### CERTIFICATE OF E-SERVICE / MAILING

I hereby certify that on this 19 day of August 2019, I served a copy of this Notice of Entry on the following:

☑ By e-mail:

Clark County District Attorney's Office Attorney General's Office - Appellate Division-

☑ The United States mail addressed as follows: Luis Pimentel # 1144889

1200 Prison Rd. Lovelock, NV 89419

/s/ Debra Donaldson

Debra Donaldson, Deputy Clerk

**Electronically Filed** 8/16/2019 2:25 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **FCL** 2 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 3 4 LUIS PIMENTEL, aka. Luis Godofredo Pimentel, III. 5 #1444838 6 Petitioner, CASE NO: A-19-793359-W 7 -VS-DEPT NO: 8 THE STATE OF NEVADA 9 Respondent. 10 FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER 11 12 DATE OF HEARING: JULY 22, 2019 TIME OF HEARING: 8:30 AM 13 THIS CAUSE having come on for hearing before the Honorable CAROLYN 14 ELLSWORTH, District Judge, on the 22nd day of July, 2019, the petitioner not being 15 present, PROCEEDING IN PROPER PERSON, the respondent being represented by 16 STEVEN B. WOLFSON, Clark County District Attorney, by and through VIVIAN 17 LUONG, Chief Deputy District Attorney, and the Court having considered the matter 18 without argument, now therefore, the Court makes the following findings of fact and 19 conclusions of law: 20 PROCEDURAL HISTORY 21 On February 28, 2014, the State filed an Information charging Luis Pimentel 22 ("Petitioner") with Count 1 – Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon (Category A Felony – 23 NRS 200.010, 200.030.1, 193.165) and Count 2 - Carrying Concealed Firearm or Other 24 Deadly Weapon (Category C Felony – NRS 202.350(1)(d)(3)). 25 On July 9, 2014, Petitioner filed a pre-trial Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus. The 26

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Unless there is good cause shown for delay, a petition that challenges the validity of a judgment or sentence must be filed within I year of the entry of the judgment of conviction or, if an appeal has been taken from the judgment, within I year after the Supreme Court issues its remittitur. For the purposes of this subsection, good cause for delay exists if the petitioner demonstrates to the satisfaction of the court:

(a) That the delay is not the fault of the petitioner; and

(a) That the delay is not the fault of the petitioner; and(b) That dismissal of the petition as untimely will unduly prejudice the petitioner.

The Supreme Court of Nevada has held that NRS 34.726 should be construed by its plain meaning. Pellegrini v. State, 117 Nev. 860, 873-74, 34 P.3d 519, 528 (2001). As per the language of the statute, the one-year time bar proscribed by NRS 34.726 begins to run from the date the judgment of conviction is filed or a remittitur from a timely direct appeal is filed. Dickerson v. State, 114 Nev. 1084, 1087, 967 P.2d 1132, 1133-34 (1998).

The one-year time limit for preparing petitions for post-conviction relief under NRS 34.726 is strictly applied. In <u>Gonzales v. State</u>, 118 Nev. 590, 596, 53 P.3d 901, 904 (2002), the Nevada Supreme Court rejected a habeas petition that was filed two days late despite evidence presented by the defendant that he purchased postage through the prison and mailed the Notice within the one-year time limit.

Furthermore, the Nevada Supreme Court has held that the district court has a *duty* to consider whether a defendant's post-conviction petition claims are procedurally barred. <u>State v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court (Riker)</u>, 121 Nev. 225, 231, 112 P.3d 1070, 1074 (2005). The <u>Riker Court found that "[a]pplication of the statutory procedural default rules to post-</u>

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conviction habeas petitions is mandatory," noting:

Habeas corpus petitions that are filed many years after conviction are an unreasonable burden on the criminal justice system. The necessity for a workable system dictates that there must exist a time when a criminal conviction is final.

<u>Id.</u> Additionally, the Court noted that procedural bars "cannot be ignored [by the district court] when properly raised by the State." <u>Id.</u> at 233, 112 P.3d at 1075. The Nevada Supreme Court has granted no discretion to the district courts regarding whether to apply the statutory procedural bars; the rules *must* be applied.

Petitioner's Petition is time barred. After the parties completed briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court issued a unanimous En Banc order affirming Petitioner's Judgment of Conviction on June 22, 2017. On July 6, 2017, Petitioner filed a Petition for Rehearing. After briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court denied Petitioner's Petition on December 19, 2017. On January 17, 2018, remittitur issued. The district court received the remittitur on January 25, 2018. Petitioner executed and mailed his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus on March 20, 2019. The Petitioner filed his Petition about a month later, on April 22, 2019. Petitioner had until January 18, 2019, to Petition the Court. By either measure, mail date or file date, Petitioner failed to petition the Court in time.

The Court finds that the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus is time barred.

## II. PETITIONER HAS NOT ASSERTED GOOD CAUSE SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME THE PROCEDURAL BARS

A showing of good cause and prejudice may the overcome procedural bars. "To establish good cause, defendants *must* show that an impediment external to the defense prevented their compliance with the applicable procedural rule. A qualifying impediment might be shown where the factual or legal basis for a claim was not reasonably available at the time of default." Clem v. State, 119 Nev. 615, 621, 81 P.3d 521, 525 (2003) (emphasis added). The Court continued, "appellants cannot attempt to manufacture good cause[.]" Id. at 621, 81 P.3d at 526. Examples of good cause include interference by State officials and the

previous unavailability of a legal or factual basis. See State v. Huebler, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. 19, 275 P.3d 91, 95 (2012).

Petitioner does not assert good cause sufficient to overcome the time bar. Petitioner had all of the facts and law available to him at the appropriate times to file his Petition timely. But instead, Petitioner slept on his rights. The Court will not reward this dilatory conduct. Petitioner alleges that that he "was told" that he had to wait after the resolution of his Motion for Rehearing. Petition at 5. It is true that Petitioner needed to wait until the resolution of his Petition for Rehearing to file the instant Petition. Until the Nevada Supreme Court issued the remittitur, the Court would be without jurisdiction to entertain a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus. This true statement aside, knowledge of the Petition for Rehearing cannot constitute good cause to overcome the time bar because it is not an impediment external to the defense and is not a relevant trigger event of the one-year period. Petitioner had from January 2018 until January 2019 to file his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus and he did not. This time period had nothing to do with the denial of his Petition for Rehearing. The Petition for Rehearing did not prevent him from petitioning the Court during this year after the Nevada Supreme Court decided his Petition for Rehearing.

The Court finds that Petitioner has not advanced good cause to overcome the time bar.

## III. THE COURT DECLINES TO EXERCISE ITS DISCRETION TO APPOINT COUNSEL FOR PETITIONER

Under the U.S. Constitution, the Sixth Amendment provides no right to counsel in post-conviction proceedings. <u>Coleman v. Thompson</u>, 501 U.S. 722, 752, 111 S. Ct. 2546, 2566 (1991). In <u>McKague v. Warden</u>, 112 Nev. 159, 163, 912 P.2d 255, 258 (1996), the Nevada Supreme Court similarly observed that "[t]he Nevada Constitution...does not guarantee a right to counsel in post-conviction proceedings, as we interpret the Nevada Constitution's right to counsel provision as being coextensive with the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution." <u>McKague</u> specifically held that with the exception of NRS 34.820(1)(a) (entitling appointed counsel when petitioner is under a sentence of death), one

does not have "any constitutional or statutory right to counsel at all" in post-conviction proceedings. <u>Id.</u> at 164, 912 P.2d at 258.

However, the Nevada Legislature has given courts the discretion to appoint post-conviction counsel so long as "the court is satisfied that the allegation of indigency is true and the petition is not dismissed summarily." NRS 34.750. NRS 34.750 reads:

A petition may allege that the Defendant is unable to pay the costs of the proceedings or employ counsel. If the court is satisfied that the allegation of indigency is true and the petition is not dismissed summarily, the court may appoint counsel at the time the court orders the filing of an answer and a return. In making its determination, the court may consider whether:

- (a) The issues are difficult;
- (b) The Defendant is unable to comprehend the proceedings;
- (c) Counsel is necessary to proceed with discovery.

(emphasis added).

Under NRS 34.750, it is clear that the court has discretion in determining whether to appoint counsel. Here, the Court declines to exercise its discretion to entertain counsel; this Petition is not difficult to resolve: it is procedurally barred without sufficient good cause and prejudice to ignore the procedural defaults.

#### ORDER

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Petition for Post-Conviction Relief shall be, and it is, hereby denied.

DATED this <u>//e</u> day of August, 2019.

BISTRICT JUDGE

28

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on or about the date filed he served the foregoing Order by faxing, mailing, or electronically serving a copy to counsel as listed below:

STEVEN B. WOLFSON Johnathan Vanboskerck, Esq. Clark County District Attorney

Luis Pimentel #1144889 Lovelock Correctional Center 1200 Prison Rd Lovelock, NV 89419 Defendant

Dunan Janesin Sal Heredia, Relief Judicial Executive Assistant

#### AFFIRMATION

Pursuant to NRS 239B.030

The undersigned does hereby affirm that the preceding Order filed in District Court case

number A793359 DOES NOT contain the social security number of any person.

/s/ Carolyn Ellsworth Date 8/16/19 \$>

Case Number: A-19-793359-W

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do certify that I mailed a true and correct copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF APPEAL to the below address(es) on this day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20 10, by placing same in the U.S. Mail via prison law library staff:

Dimbel Aux # 1/4/1587
Lovelock Correctional Center
1200 Prison Road
Lovelock, Nevada 89419

Plaintiff In Pro Se

#### AFFIRMATION PURSUANT TO NRS 239B.030

The undersigned does hereby affirm that the preceding NOTICE OF APPEAL filed in District Court Case No. A-19-793359 does not contain the social security number of any person.

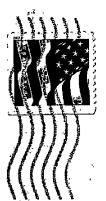
Dated this 20th day of Aerst, 20 14.

TUS PIMENTE

Plaintiff In Pro Se

Luis Pineylog # 11-140669 L.C. C. 1200 Prison al

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TO THE VERY

Electronically Filed 9/19/2019 9:39 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

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LUIS PIMENTEL,

Case No: A-19-793359-W

IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE

STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR

Dept No: V

#### CASE APPEAL STATEMENT

1. Appellant(s): Luis Pimentel

2. Judge: Carolyn Ellsworth

Plaintiff(s),

Defendant(s),

3. Appellant(s): Luis Pimentel

Counsel:

VS.

WARDEN BAKER,

Luis Pimentel #1144889 1200 Prison Rd. Lovelock, NV 89419

4. Respondent (s): Warden Baker

Counsel:

Steven B. Wolfson, District Attorney 200 Lewis Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89155-2212

A-19-793359-W

-1-

1 2	5. Appellant(s)'s Attorney Licensed in Nevada: N/A Permission Granted: N/A			
3	Respondent(s)'s Attorney Licensed in Nevada: Yes Permission Granted: N/A			
4	6. Has Appellant Ever Been Represented by Appointed Counsel In District Court: No			
5	7. Appellant Represented by Appointed Counsel On Appeal: N/A			
7	8. Appellant Granted Leave to Proceed in Forma Pauperis**: Yes, June 4, 2019  **Expires 1 year from date filed  Appellant Filed Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis: N/A  Date Application(s) filed: N/A			
9	9. Date Commenced in District Court: April 22, 2019			
10	10. Brief Description of the Nature of the Action: Civil Writ			
11	Type of Judgment or Order Being Appealed: Civil Writ of Habeas Corpus			
13	11. Previous Appeal; No			
14	Supreme Court Docket Number(s): N/A			
15	12. Child Custody or Visitation: N/A			
16	13. Possibility of Settlement: Unknown			
17	Dated This 19 day of September 2019.			
18	Steven D. Grierson, Clerk of the Court			
19				
20	/s/ Heather Ungermann			
21	Heather Ungermann, Deputy Clerk 200 Lewis Ave			
22	PO Box 551601			
23	Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-1601 (702) 671-0512			
24	(702) 071-0312			
25				
26				
27	cc: Luis Pimentel			
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A-19-793359-W

Electronically Filed

	Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COU			
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4	DISTRICT COURT			
5	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA			
6	LUIS PIMENTEL, PLAINTIFF(S) CASE NO.: A-19-793359-W			
7	WARDEN BAKER, DEFENDANT(S)  DEPARTMENT 5			
8	CIVIL ORDER TO STATISTICALLY CLOSE CASE			
9	Upon review of this matter and good cause appearing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court is hereby directed to			
10	statistically close this case for the following reason:			
11	<u>DISPOSITIONS:</u> ☐ Default Judgment			
12	Judgment on Arbitration Stipulated Judgment			
14	Summary Judgment			
15	☐ Involuntary Dismissal ☐ Motion to Dismiss by Defendant(s)			
16	Stipulated Dismissal  Voluntary Dismissal			
17	☐ Transferred (before trial) ☐ Non-Jury – Disposed After Trial Starts			
18	<ul><li>Non-Jury – Judgment Reached</li><li>☐ Jury – Disposed After Trial Starts</li></ul>			
19	☐ Jury – Verdict Reached ☐ Other Manner of Disposition			
20	Za other Mariner of Disposition			
21	DATED III OF II I OO OO OO			
22	DATED this 25th day of September, 2019.			
23				
24	CAROLYN ELLSWORTH			
25	DISTRICT COURT JUDGE			
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## DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

A-19-793359-W

Luis Pimentel, Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Warden Baker, Defendant(s)

July 22, 2019

9:00 AM
Petition for Writ of Habeas
Corpus

HEARD BY: Ellsworth, Carolyn COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 16D

COURT CLERK: Jeanette Velazquez

Jill Chambers

**RECORDER:** Trisha Garcia

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- APPERANCES: Vivian Luong, Deputy District Attorney, present. Deft. not present; in Nevada Department of Corrections (NDC).

COURT NOTED, in addition to the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, the Deft. also filed a motion to appoint counsel. COURT ORDERED, Petition summarily DENIED as time barred, further NOTING it was not addressing anything on the merits; and FURTHER ORDERED, motion to appoint counsel summarily DENIED. State to prepare the orders.

**NDC** 

CLERK'S NOTE: A copy of the foregoing minute order was distributed via general mail to the following person:

Luis Pimentel #1144809

**NDOC** 

Lovelock Correctional Center

PRINT DATE: 10/14/2019 Page 1 of 2 Minutes Date: July 22, 2019

#### A-19-793359-W

1200 Prison Road Lovelock, Nevada 89419

(7/31/19 jmv)

PRINT DATE: 10/14/2019 Page 2 of 2 Minutes Date: July 22, 2019

# **Certification of Copy and Transmittal of Record**

State of Nevada	7	SS
County of Clark	}	33

Pursuant to the Supreme Court order dated October 2, 2019, I, Steven D. Grierson, the Clerk of the Court of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, State of Nevada, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of the complete trial court record for the case referenced below. The record comprises one volume with pages numbered 1 through 54.

LUIS PIMENTEL,

Plaintiff(s),

VS.

WARDEN BAKER,

Defendant(s),

now on file and of record in this office.

Case No: A-19-793359-W

Dept. No: V

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto Set my hand and Affixed the seal of the Court at my office, Las Vegas, Nevada This 14 day of October 2019.

Steven D. Grierson, Clerk of the Court

Heather Ungermann, Deputy Clerk