

**GUIDE TO
CASE MANAGEMENT AND BUDGETING
IN CAPITAL HABEAS CASES
(IN THREE PHASES)
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
FRESNO DIVISION**

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INTRODUCTION

1. This guide provides an overview of the case management and budgeting process for capital habeas corpus cases in the Fresno Division of the Eastern District of California. Updates of this guide are available on the Court's website at www.caed.uscourts.gov, under Fresno, Attorney Info, Forms, Case Management and Budgeting in Capital Cases. The information contained within this guide is of primary interest to attorneys appointed to represent capital habeas petitioners, but also is relevant to Deputy Attorneys General assigned to cases pending in the Fresno Division. The case management and budgeting process is intended to ensure continuing court supervision of capital habeas cases and to control costs by:
 - Dividing cases into three logical phases for which budgets can be developed;
 - Requiring Petitioner's counsel to submit to the Court a case management plan and budget for each phase of the case;
 - Using an automated budgeting program;
 - Conducting case management conferences to manage the proceedings and resolve budget issues; and
 - Establishing deadlines governing completion of the activities contemplated for each phase.

2. The process described in this guide applies to the first federal capital habeas corpus petition filed in a case. The process requires continuous judicial case management to conserve judicial resources by creating realistic expectations on the part of counsel, and by reducing time spent on contentious procedural issues. The judge assigned to an individual case may modify the process described herein.

3. The automated “Case Management Plan and Budget Forms” created by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit are to be used by counsel for capital habeas petitioners appointed pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act (“CJA”) in preparing for each phase of the case. The phases are:

Phase I Appointment, Record Review, Petition Preparation, Answer, and Exhaustion

Phase II Merits Briefing, Fact Development Discovery, and Motion for Evidentiary Hearing

Phase III Pre-Evidentiary Hearing Discovery, Evidentiary Hearing, and Final Briefing

4. Automated forms require Microsoft Excel software. The automated forms provide activity categories designed to assist counsel in planning their work, developing a budget, keeping track of expended and remaining hours, and completing the CJA vouchers.

5. For assistance with the substantive law governing federal habeas corpus proceedings, counsel may refer to the Ninth Circuit Capital Punishment Handbook. The Handbook is located under “Publications” on the website for the Ninth Circuit’s Office of the Circuit Executive at www.ce9.uscourts.gov. Counsel also may consult with the California Habeas Corpus Resource Center and the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Defender for the Eastern District of California. Both agencies maintain brief banks and assist attorneys assigned to capital habeas cases. A substantial amount of consultation, however, will be considered work inherently necessary to practice and remain current in the area of federal habeas law, which is considered part of overhead and not reimbursable. This follows from the Court’s perspective that any work counsel may undertake to remain current in the area of federal habeas law, including review and analysis of recently decided cases, is non-reimbursable overhead.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE CASE

6. The federal capital habeas corpus process typically is initiated by Petitioner's requests for stay of execution, for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, and for appointment of counsel. Upon filing, the case is assigned to a district judge.
7. Following review of the initial pleadings, the Court will issue an order staying execution if necessary, evaluating Petitioner's request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, and addressing the appointment of counsel. The stay of execution issued pending appointment of counsel is authorized pursuant to Rule 191(g)(1) of the Local Rules for the Eastern District of California and 28 U.S.C. § 2251(a)(3). For appointment of counsel, the Court will refer the case to the Selection Board of the Eastern District of California for a recommendation.
8. While the Court often appoints two attorneys to a case due to the complex nature and restrictive time limits of capital habeas work, appointment of two attorneys at the maximum hourly rate is not presumed and requires a showing of good cause. 18 U.S.C. § 3599(d). Justification for the appointment of two lawyers who truly function as co-counsel to one another will be required. According to the amended costs policy promulgated by the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council, the maximum rate of compensation for lead counsel, who have substantial experience and skill in federal capital habeas corpus proceedings, is \$178 per hour. The compensation rate for attorneys with significant, but less than substantial experience is \$163 per hour. All other lead counsel will be compensated at a rate between \$142 and \$158 per hour according to their experience and skill. Second counsel will be compensated at a rate between \$116 and \$142 per hour based on experience and skill. Appointed counsel shall specify whether they are co-counsel or lead and second counsel and are directed to complete the Rate Justification Worksheet (Appendix A) for determination of the appropriate compensation rate.

9. The Court may issue an order scheduling a Case Management Conference (“CMC”) shortly after the appointment of counsel.

BUDGET PROCEDURES

10. Budgeting forms for each of the three phases may be viewed and downloaded from the Court’s website at www.caed.uscourts.gov, under Fresno, Attorney Info, Forms, CJA. The Ninth Circuit Judicial Council’s Amended CJA Capital Habeas Costs Policy (“Ninth Circuit Capital Habeas Costs Policy”) also is available at the same location on the Court’s website.
11. Automated procedures and instructions are as follows:
 - a. The automated budget and voucher processing file for the current phase will be sent to counsel by the District Court staff attorney assigned to the case.
 - b. Counsel shall complete the proposed budget for the current phase of the litigation and e-mail the completed budget to the Court for filing under seal, as indicated in Local Rule 141(e)(2). A copy of the proposed budget also shall be sent to the District Court staff attorney assigned to the case. After the budget is approved, the updated file will be e-mailed back to counsel for voucher processing.
 - c. Counsel shall fill in the timesheet portion of the automated file as work is performed, and the expense sheet portion as expenses are incurred or bills are received. Services performed by employees of appointed counsel may listed as an expense.
 - d. At the end of the month, counsel will complete the voucher by electronically signing it and dating it. The electronic copy of the voucher shall be sent via e-mail to the Court. All attached receipts or invoices should be submitted by e-mail with the voucher and time sheets or transmitted separately by facsimile.

- e. Unless counsel have access to the appropriate CJA Form 31 voucher, bills from any investigative, expert or paralegal service shall be sent to the CJA Administrator with all supporting documentation. The CJA Administrator manually will prepare a CJA Form 31 voucher and return it for the service provider's and counsel's signatures. Whether received from the CJA Administrator or obtained independently, the completed and signed CJA Form 31 voucher shall be transmitted to the CJA Administrator. After processing the signed voucher for payment, the approved amounts for investigative, expert or paralegal services will be inputted into the automated file.
 - f. Following each voucher approval, the updated automated file will be e-mailed back to counsel so the process can be repeated for the ensuing months.
12. Under 18 U.S.C. § 3599(f), ex parte consideration of funding applications requires Petitioner to make a showing of the need for confidentiality. Since budget applications require disclosure of matters protected by the attorney-client or work-product privileges, the need for confidentiality is inherent in the budgeting process. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1) and (3). Accordingly, budget forms and supporting documentation will be filed under seal and not served on counsel for Respondent. Any ex parte court proceeding regarding funding will be reported and maintained under seal. Except as set out in paragraph 11.b., *supra*, the provisions of Local Rule 141 regarding the process for filing documents under seal are suspended with respect to budgeting.
13. The proposed budget should reflect the total attorney time required, including time for budget preparation, as well as the time for paralegals, investigators and experts, if applicable, and any anticipated travel or other expenses. Voucher preparation, however, is considered part of overhead and not reimbursable. The tasks outlined in the automated budget forms are listed as a guide for counsel and are not intended to dictate what areas of investigation ought to be

explored. Some tasks may not apply to a particular case and other unlisted tasks may be appropriate. Counsel should complete the forms as appropriate to the case.

14. In support of the proposed budget for each phase, counsel shall file informative declaration(s) which explain and/or justify the hours, tasks and expenses in each category of the proposed budget and include any information that will assist the Court in determining the reasonableness of the budget request. The supporting documentation should be captioned and filed under seal in a complete application, including explanatory remarks, declarations, exhibits, and the completed budget forms. All supporting declarations must be properly subscribed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746. Budget applications should be filed at least one week before the date set for the CMC, unless the Court sets an alternate date.
15. Counsel are expected to utilize all reasonable means to minimize costs, to tier staff responsibilities to lower-rate personnel whenever practical, and to utilize paralegals and law clerks to complete tasks for which attorney expertise is not required.
16. Requests for investigative and/or expert assistance should be detailed and present the factual basis to support the request. Prior to approval, the Court must find that the requested expert or investigative assistance is “reasonably necessary for the representation of the defendant.” 18 U.S.C. § 3599(f). Information which should be included in the supporting declaration to assist the Court includes, but is not limited to, a specification of: (1) the evidence sought to be uncovered; (2) facts suggesting that such investigation, expert service, or other assistance is warranted; (3) whether the evidence existed at the time of the state trial; (4) the purpose of the evidence on federal habeas, that is, the connection of the evidence sought to be uncovered to a prospective claim or contention that will be raised in the federal petition; and (5) the proposed

billing rate and the reasonableness of the rate. Presumptive rates contained in the Ninth Circuit Capital Habeas Costs Policy will apply to all experts and investigators.

17. Counsel should provide the Court with the curriculum vitae of any expert and/or investigator that counsel proposes be retained. Hiring service providers who work in the geographic area where the work is to be performed should be considered to determine if the cost savings outweigh the factors favoring a single provider. For instance, if the task is interviewing members of Petitioner's family regarding mitigating evidence, an investigator who works in the city or region in which the majority of Petitioner's family resides might be retained. Any investigators retained to interview witnesses should avoid unnecessary expense by conducting interviews by telephone, if possible, and otherwise taking all reasonable steps to locate the interviewees before initiating any travel.
18. If the assistance of mental health experts is sought, counsel must disclose in the supporting declaration the services performed by, and summarize the findings of, previous mental health experts utilized in any capacity in the case, whether at the state or federal level. If the assistance of more than one mental health professional is proposed, counsel should make clear the tasks each expert is to complete, and how his or her work is distinguishable from that of prior and/or concurrent requested experts.
19. The Court appreciates that unanticipated events may require adjustments to an approved budget. Accordingly, the Court in some instances may grant conditional approval for certain tasks. Adjustment will be made during voucher processing, as appropriate.
20. Counsel generally will not be allowed to exceed the authorized budget during any phase without first seeking prior approval, or amendment to the budget, and explaining why additional funds are required. Failing to obtain approval to amend the budget could result in the denial of

unauthorized or excessive expenditures. Accordingly, counsel should request permission to file any substantive pleading not anticipated in the budget, and should submit any request for amendment far enough in advance to provide the Court an adequate opportunity to consider and rule on the request without impeding the progress of the litigation.

21. The budget for each phase will be closed out when the work for that phase is completed. Hours and expenditures will not be carried over to the next phase. Rather, a new budget for each succeeding phase must be prepared by counsel and approved by the Court. As the case progresses through each case management phase, counsel are responsible for ensuring that the case is litigated within the established budget.

APPROVED COMPENSATION

22. Work inherently necessary to practice and remain current in the area of federal habeas law, which is not directly attributable to a particular case, including the review and analysis of new cases, is considered general overhead, and is not reimbursable.
23. The Court will not approve compensation for administrative services, such as secretarial services, preparation of payment vouchers, or communications with Court staff.
24. While the Court recognizes that communication between counsel and among service providers is necessary to coordinate activities and investigation, consult on the law, and prepare and revise drafts, budgeting and billing for time in the “Consult with Co-Counsel” category is discontinued. Rather, time requested and authorized for substantive tasks, such as consulting with the client, interviewing witnesses, consulting with experts and investigators, reviewing/assembling records or evidence, and legal research and writing, *shall include* co-counsel conferences. For example, a conference at which the attorneys discuss the editing of each other’s briefs may be authorized and billed to the appropriate legal research and writing category on the Excel forms. The

“Consult with Resource Counsel” category remains a viable billing category, where applicable and utilized to obtain resource information.

25. Unless a contrary need is demonstrated, the Court will compensate only one attorney for physical attendance at CMCs and other court hearings. Upon sufficient justification, the Court may authorize compensation for up to two members of counsel’s legal staff at a time for visits to Petitioner and witness interviews.
26. The Court will not approve compensation for work performed on appellate proceedings (whether from interlocutory orders or final judgments). Counsel are to seek compensation for work performed at the appellate level from the Court of Appeals after having obtained an appointment from that court.
27. The Court will compensate counsel for professional time spent in airport (or other common carrier) terminals and as a passenger on common carriers only when counsel is performing substantive tasks on the case that can be billed to a professional time category. Terminal processing time as well as driving time will be compensated at the maximum rate of \$100 per hour. Although counsel may be compensated for legal work at a rate commensurate with his or her substantial experience and skill in federal capital habeas corpus proceedings, legal acumen is not being utilized for driving a car or waiting to board an airplane. The Court recognizes that when counsel is required to travel for a case and accept the lower reimbursement rate or no reimbursement, s/he could be working on another case at the maximum rate. In light of the public service nature of CJA appointments together with the fact that public rather than private funds are being utilized, the travel reimbursement set forth in this paragraph will be applied.¹

¹ Though civil attorneys receive full compensation for litigation-related travel, parity does not exist in the context of CJA expenditures. Courts consistently have determined that a “fair” fee

APPROVED EXPENSES

28. The Court will authorize payment for miscellaneous expenses reasonably incurred and subject to national and district policies and procedures. Copies of all bills and receipts must be submitted for reimbursement approval.
29. Mileage for case-related travel by privately owned (not rented) automobile may be claimed at a rate in effect for federal judicial employees, available from the CJA Administrator. Case-related parking fees and bridge/road tolls also are reimbursable. Counsel should assess whether case-related travel would be more cost effective by privately owned automobile or rented automobile.
30. Ground transportation other than by privately owned automobile will be reimbursed on an actual expense basis. Counsel should make every effort to obtain the lowest possible fares or rates.
31. Though travel expenses may be authorized in the budget, each time a member of Petitioner's litigation team intends to travel by air, a Travel Request and Authorization Form must be authorized by the CJA Administrator and approved by the Court, unless counsel can procure more economical travel arrangements on his or her own. Approval of a travel authorization form is the procedure by which government rates for travel are obtained; the form does not function as approval of travel expenses in excess of the budget. Should the authorized budget be

under the CJA does not mean the compensation must be "full." *United States v. Johnson*, 214 F. Supp. 2d 488, 491 (E.D. Penn. 2002). This follows because "a substantial element of appointed counsel's representation under the act [CJA] remains public service." *United States v. Carnevale*, 624 F. Supp. 381, 384 (D.R.I. 1985). "The purpose of the Act is not to compensate counsel with fees rivaling those available to attorneys representing nonindigent clients." *In re Smith*, 586 F.3d 1169, 1175 (9th Cir. 2009).

insufficient for the anticipated costs of travel, counsel must seek modification of the budget from the Court in addition to obtaining a travel authorization form from the CJA Administrator.

32. The Travel Request and Authorization Form enables CJA counsel to receive air travel at government rates paid directly from CJA funds. Counsel are expected to request authorization for air travel through the CJA Administrator in sufficient time to obtain low cost advance fare for air travel or to provide justification why an advance fare could not be obtained. In no case will counsel be reimbursed for first-class travel expenses. Counsel may make their own reservations for air travel and seek reimbursement on a CJA voucher, but reimbursement will be limited to the maximum available government rates.
33. The Court will approve reimbursement for actual food and lodging expenses for out of town travel on case-related business, subject to the maximum established area per diem rate. Current travel and subsistence allowances are available on the GSA website, www.gsa.gov, under Per Diem rates, or from the CJA Administrator.
34. Counsel will be reimbursed for the actual cost of case-related long-distance telephone calls. The Court will not authorize payment for any surcharges or for general telephone service. Facsimile transmissions are reimbursable for the actual amount of the telephone charge.
35. Counsel will be reimbursed for the actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred in photocopying, up to a maximum of 10 cents per page. Counsel will be expected to send documents over 100 pages in length to an outside copying service, unless counsel's in-house photocopying is more economically efficient.
36. The Court will authorize reimbursement for the actual cost of case-related regular U.S. postage. The Court will approve reimbursement for the actual cost of other postal services or the use of non-federal carriers (such as overnight or two-day delivery) only if circumstances require the

use of such services. If counsel utilize expedited delivery services, a statement detailing the necessity of such delivery must be submitted with the itemized bill. Counsel are to make every effort to use regular U.S. mail and e-mail via the Internet whenever possible. The Court may modify this rule if counsel make excessive use of costly overnight carriers.

37. The Court will not reimburse counsel for the following expenditures:
- a. General office overhead; including cellular telephone maintenance fees;
 - b. Books or other publications;
 - c. Flat-fee computer research plans;
 - d. General law office supplies and equipment;
 - e. Travel, attendance, registration, or material costs related to educational seminars.

VOUCHER PROCEDURES

38. All vouchers are reviewed for reasonableness. Fees or expenses which exceed the authorized budget or the limits set forth in this Guide are subject to reduction without further notice or explanation.
39. Counsel are directed to submit vouchers covering services from the commencement to the completion of each budgeted phase, on a monthly basis. Generally, vouchers should extend from the first to the last day of each month, except when combined attorney's fees and expenses total less than \$1,000 for any given month. In that event, the fees and expenses for that month may be combined with the fees and expenses incurred the following month. If a budgeted phase commences mid-month, the voucher may extend to the end of the following month. Similarly, if the budgeted phase is completed mid-month, the voucher will extend to that date. All vouchers are to be submitted within the first ten days of the month following the last day of

service reported. All fees and expenses for a particular time period should be submitted on the same voucher to the extent possible (e.g., travel and administrative expenses).

40. The Court expects counsel to submit vouchers within 90-days of the services provided, absent prior arrangements made with the Court for a later submission. Without prior Court approval, vouchers will not be processed for services rendered more than one-year prior to the date of submission of the voucher.
41. Billing statements or voucher worksheets shall specifically describe the work performed, the time allotted to each specific task, reported to one-tenth (.1) of an hour. Descriptions should not be vague or general. Each time entry shall reflect discrete, individual tasks and shall not simply list multiple tasks performed in a specified block of time. Information should be provided in sufficient detail so as to permit meaningful review, including: identification of individual witnesses interviewed; identification, by name or title, of persons involved in telephone conversations or conferences; specific topics researched; and identification of pleadings drafted or reviewed.
42. Funds are approved only to the extent that the tasks outlined in the budget ultimately are required. Reimbursement may be reduced if specified tasks are less complex than anticipated.
43. Should the need arise, informal written request may be made to transfer attorney hours and expenses from one task to another, and/or between appointed counsel. If appropriate, the Court will approve such transfers. Budgeted amounts may not be transferred between or among experts and investigators.
44. In the event that in-court transcripts of non-evidentiary hearings are requested by Petitioner, Petitioner's counsel should arrange with the court reporter(s) to bill the Court directly through

the use of a CJA Form 24. Counsel shall not include the cost of transcripts as an out-of-pocket expense on a CJA Form 30.

45. Services provided by counsel's non-attorney employees may be listed as an expense on counsel's CJA Form 30. *See* ¶ 11c, *supra*. Independent contractor paralegal services, like investigator and expert services, should be billed on a CJA Form 31. *See* ¶ 11e, *supra*.

CASE MANAGEMENT PHASES

Phase I – Appointment, Record Review, Preparation of the Petition, Answer, and Exhaustion

46. Phase I encompasses case proceedings from the appointment of CJA counsel through filing of the petition and answer. Because counsel new to the case will need to review a good portion of the record and prior attorney files before establishing a litigation strategy, the Court anticipates that the initial Phase I budget will be limited and that a supplemental Phase I budget will be necessary. If Petitioner's counsel are familiar with the case (as in the event one or more appointed counsel are continuing from state post-conviction proceedings) and the entire Phase I panoply of tasks can be budgeted at one time, all tasks mentioned in the succeeding paragraphs for the initial and supplemental CMCs can be combined into a single Phase I CMC.
47. Prior to the first CMC, Petitioner's counsel will be directed to submit a budget estimating the time needed for record assembly, initial record review, contacts with Petitioner, and if appropriate an initial, preliminary mental state evaluation to assess Petitioner's competence to proceed with the litigation as well as to inform the budgeting of more in-depth mental state issue development.² The budget should include all tasks to be completed during this initial segment of Phase I, including the time spent on tasks already completed or partially performed. Counsel

² Under the single Phase I budget approach, all tasks contemplated for Phase I would be included in this budget.

for both parties shall complete, to the extent possible, the Confidential Case Evaluation Form, (*see* Appendix B), and be directed to file it under seal prior to the initial CMC.

48. The initial Phase I CMC provides an opportunity to make a preliminary evaluation of case complexity, determine how much time will be needed to assemble the case record, and set a date for Respondent to lodge the state record. *See* Local Rule 191(h)(1). Counsel for both Petitioner and Respondent are present at this and all CMCs. The Court may require counsel for Respondent to provide any missing portions of the state record to Petitioner's counsel. The Court also may issue a subpoena duces tecum requiring prior counsel to supply case files to Petitioner's counsel. Counsel should notify the Court of any delays in receiving prior counsel's files. The parties also will discuss the scheduling of a second CMC, if necessary, to set the timetable and deadlines for filing the petition and answer.
49. Once case management issues are resolved, counsel for Respondent will be excused from the CMC so the Court can discuss budgeting procedures with Petitioner's counsel on an ex parte basis.
50. After the CMC, the Court will issue two case management orders, one filed publicly, addressed to all parties, setting forth significant dates and establishing schedules, and one filed under seal, addressed only to Petitioner's counsel, regarding budgeting issues. The publicly filed order will include the date upon which the statute of limitations expires, a due date for Respondent to lodge the state record with the Court, the date of the subsequent Phase I CMC, if any, and any other matters or decisions made at the conference. The sealed order will memorialize discussions entertained during the confidential portion of the CMC, explain approval of the preliminary Phase I budget plan, and set a due date for Petitioner's supplemental Phase I budget, if applicable.

51. At the second Phase I CMC, the focus will be on filing the petition and the answer, as well as establishing a timetable for resolving any exhaustion or statute of limitations issues. The budget application shall disclose the results of any preliminary investigation and expert consultation concerning Petitioner's mental state or mental state issues. Counsel for both parties will be present at the this CMC to discuss the litigation timetable and set deadlines for filing the petition and answer. If Petitioner plans to file a protective petition pursuant to *Pace v. DiGuglielmo*, 544 U.S. 408 (2005), pursue equitable tolling, or file a state exhaustion petition concurrently with the federal petition, these intentions will be discussed at the second Phase I CMC. With respect to the final, complete petition, Petitioner is advised that the pleading should include factual allegations and the legal basis or theory underlying the claims, but not points and authorities. Time projections for preparing the petition shall take into consideration that the petition is to be filed without points and authorities. The answer will be presented in a similar form, that is, without points and authorities. This factor will inform the discussion for setting the due date for filing the answer. The parties also will be asked to consider a projection for the culmination of Phase I, taking into account any potential exhaustion and statute of limitations disputes.
52. Once discussion of the case management aspects of the CMC are completed, counsel for Respondent will be excused and discussion about the proposed amended budget will be entertained. As with the orders following the initial CMC, two orders will be filed following the second Phase I CMC. The publicly filed order will set out the due dates and timetables for the various tasks discussed during the CMC. The sealed order will address budgeting issues, including the preparation of a budget for Phase II. The Court's assessment of the proposed budget will be informed by the preliminary investigation and/ or mental state evaluation.

53. Depending upon the results of investigation and claims development with the provision of federal funding, Petitioner's federal petition may allege unexhausted claims that were not included or are so expanded from claims presented in a prior state habeas petition (if a state petition was filed), that they do not or might not satisfy exhaustion requirements.³ If Petitioner, concurrent with the filing of the federal petition, files a state petition before the California Supreme Court that includes all new and expanded previously unexhausted claims within the federal limitations period, and shows in a motion presented to the Court that s/he can meet the three-part test of *Rhines v. Weber*, 544 U.S. 269, 276 (2005), abeyance of federal proceedings will be considered by the Court. If abeyance is ordered under these circumstances, the filing of the answer by Respondent will be deferred until exhaustion proceedings are complete. *See* ¶ 58, *infra*.

54. If Petitioner does not file a state exhaustion petition concurrently with filing the federal petition, Respondent shall file an answer within the time frame established by the Court. The answer shall be filed without points and authorities, consistent with Rule 5 of the Rules governing § 2254 Cases (hereafter the "§ 2254 Rules"), and raise all substantive and procedural affirmative defenses Respondent intends to pursue.⁴ Within a reasonable time after the filing of the answer, the parties will confer and file a joint statement setting forth their respective positions regarding the exhaustion status of the petition. If the joint statement reveals that the parties agree the

³ If a state petition was not previously filed, all claims developed with the provision of federal funding that were not raised on appeal will be unexhausted.

⁴ In rare cases, where a petition presents an obvious or other facial defect, the Court may be persuaded to permit Respondent to file a responsive pleading in the form of a motion to dismiss consistent with Rule 4 of the § 2254 Rules. Respondent is advised that the issue of procedural default will not be considered at this juncture.

petition is fully exhausted, the Court will set a date for the Phase II CMC. If the parties agree that certain claims in the petition are not exhausted, and/or the Court independently determines from the joint statements and review of the pleadings that certain claims are not exhausted, the necessity of abeyance will be considered.

55. Abeyance of federal proceedings is available under *Rhines v. Weber, supra*, in which case Petitioner's mixed petition is held in abeyance, and the *Kelly* procedure,⁵ in which case Petitioner must withdraw unexhausted claims from the federal petition while pursuing state exhaustion. See *King v. Ryan*, 564 F.3d 1133, 1135 (9th Cir. 2009). Petitioners are admonished that under *Mayle v. Felix*, 545 U.S. 644, 662-64 (2005), when the withdrawn claims are re-alleged in an amended petition they may be barred by the statute of limitations if they do not relate back within the narrow definition of that case.
56. If the federal proceedings are held in abeyance, Petitioner's counsel will be directed to file brief status reports on the progress of the case in state court on a quarterly basis. Counsel will be paid for the small amount of time this task requires. Unless otherwise directed, the Court expects that no other fees or expenses will be incurred while a case is held in abeyance. Counsel are to seek funds from the state court for fees and expenses incurred during this period.
57. Upon return to federal court after exhaustion, should Petitioner choose to amend the petition, s/he shall file a memorandum of points and authorities which identifies the new claims as well as justification for the inclusion of these claims under *Mayle v. Felix, supra*. Respondent shall submit a responsive points and authorities. The Court will conduct further proceedings as appropriate for the case.

⁵ The *Kelly* procedure is so-called after the decision in *Kelly v. Small*, 315 F.3d 1063 (9th Cir. 2003).

58. Once an amended petition is found to be appropriately before the Court, or where the federal petition does not require amendment (because it was held in abeyance under *Rhines*), that petition will be considered the operative petition. Unless an answer previously has been filed to the operative petition, Respondent will file an answer at the juncture, without points and authorities, consistent with Rule 5 of § 2254 Rules. The answer shall raise all substantive and procedural affirmative defenses Respondent intends to pursue. The Court will then establish due dates for filing the Phase II budget as well as scheduling the Phase II CMC.

Phase II: Merits Briefing, Fact Development Discovery, and Request for Evidentiary Hearing

59. At the Phase II CMC, the Court will address briefing of the claims in the petition and preparing a motion for further factual development (i.e., discovery,⁶ evidentiary hearing and record expansion). Briefing entails Petitioner's preparation of a comprehensive memorandum of points and authorities in support of the claims alleged in the petition, Respondent's preparation of a comprehensive memorandum of points and authorities opposing the claims in the petition, including the development of any alleged affirmative defenses, and Petitioner's preparation of a reply responding to arguments advanced by Respondent in the opposition brief.⁷
60. Petitioner's counsel are encouraged to discuss at the CMC any discovery identified in the course of preparing the petition and previously submitted in the budget application. Since a significant number of discovery issues can be resolved informally by the parties, discovery identified in the budget application ultimately may require less time to complete than originally contemplated.

⁶ Discovery conducted during Phase II is designed to develop facts, and is distinguished from discovery conducted during Phase III in anticipation of an evidentiary hearing.

⁷ The Court will consider Respondent's procedural affirmative defenses in the course of evaluating the merits of Petitioner's claims.

As mentioned above, the Court's approval of a contingent budget item is subject to a downward adjustment during voucher processing. *See* ¶ 19, *supra*.

61. When preparing a request for an evidentiary hearing, Petitioner's counsel should be mindful that the request shall not recite any legal authority on the merits of the claims, but be limited to identification of: (a) the claims for which a hearing is sought; (b) an offer of proof as to the evidence sought to be presented; and (c) the legal grounds for the evidentiary hearing, including reason(s) Petitioner did not present the evidence in state proceedings. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2254(e)(2). The budget for Petitioner's evidentiary hearing motion should include preparation of a reply brief.
62. If during the litigation of Phase II, the parties wish to involve the Court in resolution of any case management disputes, or if a modification of the case management plan appears necessary, further CMCs may be requested.
63. Phase II of the litigation is complete when the Court issues an order addressing Petitioner's request for an evidentiary hearing. If an evidentiary hearing is granted, the Court will schedule the next CMC and direct Petitioner's counsel to file a budget application for Phase III.
64. In the event the Court denies the merits of all record-based claims and denies Petitioner's request for an evidentiary hearing as well, the Court will issue or deny a certificate of appealability (COA) concurrently with the final order. Rule 11 of the § 2254 Rules. The issuance of a COA indicates Petitioner has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). Entry of judgment will follow. If Petitioner moves for reconsideration of the denial of a COA, the motion will not extend the time to appeal. In cases where resolution of the action is adverse to Petitioner at the culmination of Phase II, the Phase III budget

application will be very minimal, encompassing only a notice of appeal and limited post-judgment litigation.

Phase III: Pre-hearing Discovery, Evidentiary Hearing and Final Briefing

65. In the event an evidentiary hearing is granted, Phase III may be bifurcated and multiple CMCs may be held to determine the time and resources needed to prepare for and conduct pre-evidentiary hearing discovery, the evidentiary hearing, and post-evidentiary hearing briefing. These CMCs provide an opportunity for the Court to fully explore remaining areas in dispute, ascertain any items of agreement, and encourage the possibility of case resolution.
66. Should case resolution fail to materialize, the Court will address pre-evidentiary hearing discovery. Pre-hearing discovery may include deposing the opponent's experts, obtaining documents upon which expert testimony is predicated, and identifying witnesses who will testify. The matter of how testimony will be presented and how evidence will be received can be discussed at the CMC. The Court may allow some direct testimony by declaration or depositions in lieu of live testimony (subject to live cross examination).⁸ To assist in preparing the budget application for Phase III, a date will be set for the parties to disclose the identities of witnesses expected to be deposed and/or to provide live testimony, in order to enable Petitioner's counsel to estimate the number of witnesses to be deposed on behalf of Petitioner and the number of Respondent's depositions at which attendance will be required.
67. Certain expenses incurred in connection with depositions of fact witnesses are paid by the U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of California, and as such are not part of the budget. First, the

⁸ Live testimony is preferred for experts and key percipient witnesses.

Marshal pays expenses associated with fact witnesses deposed by Petitioner (whether or not by subpoena), including witness fees and travel expenses, the court reporter's fees, and cost of the original transcript. Second, for depositions of fact witnesses conducted by Respondent, the Marshal pays costs associated with Petitioner's copy of the deposition transcript. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1825(b); Guide to Judiciary Policy, Volume VII, § 3.20.40.20. Under Rule 6(c) of the § 2254 Rules, for fact witness depositions noticed by Respondent, the Court may additionally require the State of California to pay travel expenses, subsistence expenses, and fees of Petitioner's attorney (which the Court will limit to one of Petitioner's attorneys) to attend the deposition. *See also* Guide to Judiciary Policy, Volume VII, § 3.20.40.30. Witness fees, travel expenses, reporter's fees, and cost of original transcripts for fact witness depositions noticed by Respondent must be paid by the State of California. The State of California also pays for Respondent's transcript copy of a fact witness deposition noticed by Petitioner.

68. Depositions of expert witnesses generally are the responsibility of the party noticing the deposition. Under F.R.C.P. 26(b)(4)(C), the party seeking discovery concerning the opponent's expert witness shall pay that expert's reasonable fee in responding to the discovery. Thus, court reporter fees and expenses together with fees and expenses of Respondent's experts deposed by Petitioner are paid out of CJA funds, and must be included in the budget. By the same token, court reporter fees and expenses together with fees and expenses of Petitioner's experts deposed by Respondent must be paid by the State of California. In addition, under Rule 6(c) of the § 2254 Rules, for expert witness depositions noticed by Respondent, the Court may require the State of California to pay the travel expenses, subsistence expenses, and fees of Petitioner's attorney (which the Court will limit to one of Petitioner's attorneys) to attend the deposition.

Petitioner's copy of the deposition transcript is paid out of CJA funds, and should be included in the budget. *See also*, Guide to Judiciary Policy, Volume VII, § 3.20.40.30.

69. A number of expenses associated with oral testimony at evidentiary hearings also are not part of the budget. The U.S. Marshal pays for fees and travel expenses of fact witnesses called by subpoena to testify at the evidentiary hearing. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1825(b). The State of California must pay the court reporter for Respondent's copy of the transcript. The budget should include, however, fees and travel expenses for any expert witness Petitioner intends to call to testify at an evidentiary hearing. Reimbursement of costs for depositions in lieu of live testimony at an evidentiary hearing is usually made according to the same policies as at an evidentiary hearing.
70. In light of the aforementioned provisions, the Court will consider apportionment of discovery costs between Petitioner and Respondent in the budget. The Court also will determine whether any experts who testified at the state court trial should be considered fact witnesses and, if so, order that travel and other expenses be paid by the U.S. Marshal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1825(b), and not included in Petitioner's budget. Because the budget order is a confidential document, the Court will issue a companion order served on both parties indicating any resolutions as to the apportionment of costs.
71. After an evidentiary hearing is conducted, the Court will determine the amount of time and resources needed for post-hearing briefing, and set deadlines accordingly. A separate CMC may be required if the schedule is not established at the culmination of the evidentiary hearing and was not included in the original Phase III budget application. After review of the pleadings, briefing, the state record, all properly admitted evidence, and the argument of counsel for the

parties, the Court will issue a memorandum order and decision on the merits of the petition. Entry of judgment will follow.⁹

72. In the event the Court enters its final order adverse to Petitioner, it will issue or deny a COA. Rule 11 of the Rules Governing § 2254 Cases. The issuance of a COA indicates Petitioner has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). If Petitioner moves for reconsideration of the denial of a COA, the motion will not extend the time to appeal.

CONCLUSION

73. This case management guide should serve to assist Petitioner's and Respondent's counsel in managing capital habeas cases while allowing control of associated case costs. Within the basic framework of the budgeting process, creative and individual approaches to case management are encouraged. Ideas for effective case management are welcomed and should be communicated to the Court.

⁹ Only upon extremely rare circumstances will the Court consider entertaining a motion or request for reconsideration. Such motions are not favored.

Appendix A

RATE JUSTIFICATION WORKSHEET

A. Attorney Name and Address: _____

B. Experience and Qualifications:

Admitted to practice: _____ years.

Member of the bar of a federal district court or court of appeals: _____ years.

Primary area of practice: _____

Has previously represented a client in (check all that apply):

- Direct appeal of a death sentence
- State capital post-conviction proceeding
- Direct appeal of a non-capital homicide conviction
- Capital trial
- Non-capital homicide trial
- Other felony trial
- Non-capital federal habeas corpus
- Federal capital habeas proceeding

Number of clients previously represented in federal habeas actions: _____

Most recently authorized hourly rate in such a case: _____

Approximate hours spent in training programs on death penalty litigation and/or post-conviction representation: _____

C. Other Relevant Information:

Appendix B

CONFIDENTIAL CASE EVALUATION FORM

The answers on this form are for case management and budgeting purposes only and will not be binding in any respect on substantive issues to be raised in the course of litigation.

NAME OF ATTORNEY(S):

Lead Counsel:

Co-Counsel:

STATE LEVEL PROCEEDINGS

1. Did either lawyer participate in any part of Petitioner's state proceedings?

No -- proceed to question 2. Yes (indicate which lawyer) _____

If yes, in what aspects of the case?

2. Was a state habeas petition involving the same conviction and sentence filed?

No Yes

If yes: Date filed: _____ Disposition & Date: _____

3. Was investigation performed at the state level?

Yes No

If yes, what was the purpose?

4. Were funds requested at the state level for post-conviction investigation?

No - Reason:

Yes

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Authorized</u>

5. Was discovery requested at the state level?

No - Reason:

Yes

	<u>Was it:</u>
<u>Nature of Discovery Requested</u>	<u>Granted?</u> <u>Denied?</u>

6. Was an evidentiary hearing held at the state level?

Yes No

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Based on current information, what is the date required by the statute of limitations for filing of the petition? _____

THE RECORD

1. Has the record been assembled?

Yes No: Missing portion(s) and location? _____

2. Have the complete files of prior counsel been obtained?

Yes No: Missing portion(s) and location? _____

3. As accurately as possible (recognizing that it may be an estimate at this point), provide information about the size of the record:

<u>Type of Record</u>	<u>No. of Pages</u>
Trial transcript & Exhibits	_____
State appellate record	_____
State habeas record & Exhibits (including transcript from any state evidentiary hearing)	_____
Ancillary files and records (including prior counsel's files, investigative reports, etc.)	_____
Total Pages	=====

FACTORS AFFECTING CASE COMPLEXITY

Check all the factors applicable to this case and provide information that will allow determination of whether the case may be especially complex or costly:

Age of Petitioner at time of offense: _____

Co-defendants (specify if tried jointly or separately).

Number: _____

Number of victims: _____

Related cases.

Summarize:

Prior convictions.

Number and type:

Elapsed time since offense: _____

Elapsed time since trial: _____

Informant involved

Number, type and availability of informant(s):

Serial homicides

Number of different events at separate locations:

Number of death eligibility circumstances alleged: _____
List:

Other crimes charged
List:

Unadjudicated criminal conduct
Type:

Unadjudicated bad acts
Type and Petitioner's age at commission:

Petitioner spent an extended time out of the state or country
Location:

Petitioner's family presently out of the state or country
Location:

Witnesses or other investigation that will require travel
Provide specifics, including number of witnesses, locations, and number of trips anticipated:

Petitioner's and/or family's background records were not obtained in state proceedings.

- There are issues as to competency/mental illness/or other disabilities.
Explain impact on legal issues:

Explain impact on client relations:

- Use of drugs or alcohol at time of offense.
- Petitioner suffered physical/mental abuse as a child.
- Translator required for Petitioner.
- Translator required for witnesses.
Number of witness and types:

- Scientific procedures will be required.
Type:

- No investigation was performed or was denied at the state level.
- No evidentiary hearing was conducted at the state level.
- Other issues - Describe: