



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 18, 2018

Hon. Danny Bickell, Deputy Clerk
United States Supreme Court
Office of the Clerk
1 First St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: *John William King v. Lorie Davis*, No. 17-9535

Dear Mr. Bickell:

On June 20, 2018, the Court docketed a certiorari petition in this federal habeas death penalty case. A response is currently due on July 26th. For the reasons that follow, Respondent requests a 30-day extension of the deadline to Friday, August 24th.

Petitioner seeks review of three claims of ineffective assistance of counsel on which the Fifth Circuit denied a certificate of appealability (COA). The federal habeas action and COA briefing in the lower court were previously handled by an attorney who has left the agency. The extension requested will allow sufficient time for undersigned counsel to familiarize herself with the claims, review the voluminous state court and federal habeas record, and draft a proper response. Finally, Petitioner does not have a scheduled execution date and Petitioner's counsel, A. Richard Ellis, is unopposed to the extension.

Sincerely,

/s/ Katherine D. Hayes
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cc: A. Richard Ellis, Counsel for Petitioner, a.r.ellis@att.net