



JOE D. GONZALES  
Criminal District Attorney  
Bexar County, Texas

September 2, 2021

Re: No. 21-5327, Mark Anthony Gonzalez v. Texas

Clerk of the United States Supreme Court  
filed electronically

Dear Clerk's Office:

Petitioner Mark Anthony Gonzalez was convicted of capital murder in this county in 2015 and subsequently sentenced to death. Last month he filed a petition for writ of certiorari in this Court, which was placed on the Court's docket on August 9, 2021. This triggered the necessity of this office's filing a brief in opposition by September 8<sup>th</sup>, which is Wednesday of next week. There is no execution date set or pending.

I am the lead appellate prosecutor in the case, so will be filing the brief in opposition. I was admitted to the bar of this Court April 17, 2006. This letter is to request a thirty-day extension of time for filing that brief.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> I started a two-week state writ hearing in this same case. On August 9<sup>th</sup> I was in the middle of that hearing. The following week we were dealing with follow-up issues from that hearing.

While I had agreed to accept service from Respondent's attorneys, I did not realize at that time and in the midst of the writ hearing that this Court's rules require a brief in opposition to petitions for certiorari in death penalty cases. Since Monday is a holiday, there are now less than four business days remaining before that brief is due. That is too little time to devote to a matter as serious as this one.

Respondent requests an extension of time of thirty days to file the brief in opposition to Petitioner's petition. This would make the brief due on October 8, 2021.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

**Paul Elizondo Tower – 101 W. Nueva St., Fourth Floor - San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(210) 335-2311  
For Victim Assistance call (210) 335-2105**

Very truly yours,

          /s/Jay Brandon            
State Bar No. 02880500

copy: Ms. Mridula Saroja Raman, counsel for Petitioner