

No.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

MAHMOUD ALMUHTASEB, PETITIONER

v.

STATE OF FLORIDA, RESPONDENT.

*ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
THE FOURTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF FLORIDA*

PETITIONER'S MOTION TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS

CAREY HAUGHWOUT
Public Defender

Paul Edward Petillo
Assistant Public Defender
Counsel of Record

Office of the Public Defender
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida
421 Third Street
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
(561) 355-7600
appeals@pd15.org
ppetillo@pd15.state.fl.us

COMES NOW the Petitioner, Mahmoud Almuhtaseb, and moves this Court, pursuant to Rule 39.1, Rules of the Supreme Court, to declare him indigent and allow him to proceed in forma pauperis in this cause, in particular to waive any filing fees. As grounds therefore, Petitioner says:

1. Petitioner applies for a writ of certiorari to review the decision of the Fourth District Court of Appeal of Florida affirming his convictions and three-year prison sentence.
2. Petitioner was declared an indigent party pursuant to section 27.52, Florida Statutes, and the public defender was appointed to represent him on appeal, on September 28, 2022. Petitioner has been incarcerated in State Prison since July 21, 2022; he is indigent and without funds to pay any fees or costs in this action.
3. Federal law requires all courts of the United States to allow commencement and prosecution of any suit without prepayment of fees or costs upon the showing made above. 28 U.S.C. §1915(a).
4. Refusal to allow Petitioner to proceed in forma pauperis

would deny him equal protection of the law, meaningful access to the courts, and due process of law since he cannot otherwise get the review to which a more affluent defendant would be entitled.

See Burns v. Ohio, 360 U.S. 252 (1959).

WHEREFORE, Petitioner moves that this Court declare him indigent and allow filing and prosecution of his petition without payment of any fees or costs.

Respectfully submitted,

CAREY HAUGHWOUT
Public Defender
15th Judicial Circuit of Florida
421 Third Street
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
(561) 355-7600

Paul Petillo
Paul Edward Petillo
Assistant Public Defender
Counsel of record