

AARON D. FORD  
*Attorney General*

CRAIG A. NEWBY  
*Assistant Attorney General*

CHRISTINE JONES BRADY  
*Assistant Attorney General*



STATE OF NEVADA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

100 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

TERESA BENITEZ-  
THOMPSON  
*Chief of Staff*

LESLIE NINO PIRO  
*General Counsel*

HEIDI PARRY STERN  
*Solicitor General*

June 23, 2025

**Via Electronic Filing and Electronic Mailing**

Hon. Scott S. Harris  
Clerk of the Court  
Supreme Court of the United States  
One First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20543-0001

**Re: Request for extension of time to file brief in opposition  
*Atkins v. Bean*, No. 24-7302 (Capital Case)**

Dear Mr. Harris:

I am counsel of record for the Respondents in this matter. On May 27, 2025, this Court docketed the petition for writ of certiorari Petitioner Atkins Sterling, Jr. filed with this Court. The brief in opposition is currently due on June 27, 2025. Respondents respectfully request this Court issue an order under Rule 30.4, extending the deadline to file the brief in opposition by thirty-one (31) days, to and including July 28, 2025.<sup>1</sup>

This is Respondents' first request for an extension of time to file the brief in opposition. Good cause for an extension exists because I was out of the office attending a conference and on annual leave May 28-June 7, 2025. Since my return, I have had to catch up on multiple deadlines and review multiple briefs for other deputies. And I have been working on an answering brief in the Ninth Circuit death penalty case *Blake v. Bean*, No. 23-99001 (9th Cir.). In this matter, I have made significant progress on my Brief in Opposition but require additional time to complete my research and response. In light of the considerable time and attention required by other matters and this one, Respondents need additional time to complete the brief in opposition.

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<sup>1</sup> A thirty (30) day extension results in a due date on Sunday, July 27, 2025.

Page 2  
June 23, 2025

Counsel for Petitioner Atkins, A. Richard Ellis, informed me by electronic mail that he does not oppose this request for additional time.

Sincerely,

AARON D. FORD  
Attorney General

By: /s/ Heather D. Procter  
HEATHER D. PROCTER (Bar No. 8621)  
Chief Deputy Attorney General  
Post-Conviction Division  
[hprocter@ag.nv.gov](mailto:hprocter@ag.nv.gov)  
(775) 684-1271 (work)

HDP:aw

cc: A. Richard Ellis\*

\*Counsel of Record