

STATE OF TENNESSEE

Office of the Attorney General



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May 30, 2018

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

Re: Request for Extension of Time to File Brief in Opposition,
In re Pervis Payne, No. 17-8871

Dear Mr. Harris:

Please allow this letter to serve as a request by the respondent, Tony Mays, Warden, pursuant to Sup. Ct. R. 15.3, 20.3(b), 30.2, and 30.4, for a 30-day extension of time in which to file a brief in opposition to the petition for writ of mandamus presently pending in the above-referenced case. The opposing brief is due for filing by June 11, 2018, and if this request were granted, the new due-date for the brief would be July 11, 2018. Undersigned counsel has contacted opposing counsel about this request, and opposing counsel does not oppose it.

The petitioner is confined under a death sentence. In this matter, he challenges the decision of the United States Court of Appeal for the Sixth Circuit under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b) to deny authorization for filing a second or successive habeas corpus petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. An extension is necessary primarily due to long-arranged travel plans out of the country by undersigned counsel, which has taken - or will take - counsel away from the Office for May 15-23, 2018, and June 4-12, 2018. During the interim between these two trips, counsel's time is focused on completing an appellate brief due in the Sixth Circuit on extension in an appeal from the denial of a habeas corpus petition in another capital case.

For these reasons, the respondent must respectfully request 30 additional days, until July 11, 2018, to file a brief in opposition to the petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John H. Bledsoe", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John H. Bledsoe
Deputy Attorney General
615.741.4351

Cc: Paul Bottei, Assistant Federal Public Defender