

No. 25-6506

**In The  
Supreme Court of the United States  
October Term 2025**

**John Wesley Patton,  
Petitioner,  
Vs.**

**Gary Westcott, Secretary Louisiana Department of Corrections,  
DPSC, and Travis Day, Warden BB Sixty Rayburn Corr. Cte.  
Respondents,**

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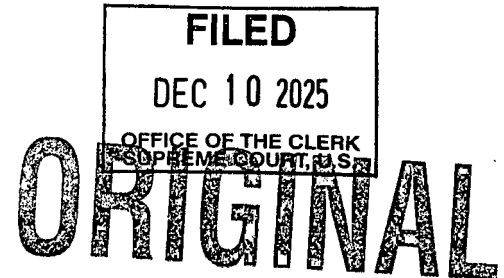
**On Petition of Writ of Certiorari  
Louisiana Supreme Court No. 2025-KH-00359**

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**Petition for Writ of Certiorari  
United States Supreme Court**

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**John Wesley Patton, Esq.  
Pro-Se Petitioner  
DPSC No. 327902  
BB. Sixty Rayburn Correctional  
27268 Hwy 21 North  
Angie, Louisiana 70426**



(a)

## **Questions Presented for Review**

### **Question Number One**

**Could a Louisiana District Judge, namely, Steven C. Grefer, 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, in Division "J" in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana be considered to have been impartial after the Petitioner filed a Federal Civil Rights action naming the Judge as one of the Defendant's? And the Judge continued to hear his own recusal motions and rule on the Petitioner's application for post conviction relief? Was he impartial pursuant to the US Constitution?**

### **Question Number Two**

**Could a Louisiana District Judge, namely, Steven C. Grefer, 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, in Division "J" be considered to be impartial on the rulings of the Petitioner's Louisiana State post conviction application? When several of the Claims on the State Post Conviction were against the Judge? Possibly making the Judge a witness? Can a Judge hear his own claims?**

### **Question Number Three**

**Can any Louisiana Citizen ever expect to receive a Fair Trial with the way Louisiana currently allows their District Attorney's to hand pick the Judge's assigned to their Criminal Cases? Through manipulation of Louisiana District Court Rules, Rule 14.0 Allotment of Cases?**

### **Question Number Four**

**Did the Petitioner really receive a "Fair and Impartial" Louisiana District Judge? In pre trial motions? At trial? On his post conviction?**

ii.

(b)(i)

**List of Parties**

**Petitioner's**

**John Wesley Patton, Esq.**

DPSC No. 327902

BB Sixty Rayburn Correctional Center

Wind 2

27268 Hwy 21 North

Angie, Louisiana 70426

**The Louisiana Citizens**

In all Parish Prisons and State

Prisons of Louisiana.

In the Communities.

**Respondent's**

**Attorney General of Louisiana**

Liz Murrell

Livingston Building

1885 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**The Governor of Louisiana**

Jeff Landry

State Capitol

900 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**District Attorney**

Paul D. Connick, Jr.

District Attorney for Jefferson Parish

Appellate Section

5<sup>th</sup> Floor

200 Derbigny Street

Gretna, Louisiana 70053

**(b)(iii)**  
**Proceedings**

1. On or about June 27, 2020 the Petitioner filed a Federal Lawsuit (1983, 1985) against the City of Westwego Louisiana Federal Civil Action Number 20-3408, the Petitioner named 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District State District Judge, Steven C. Grefer of Division "J". (Appendix "H").
2. On October 04, 2024 the Petitioner filed in the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court an application for post conviction relief claiming thirty constitutional violations (30) claims, several involving Judge Grefer. Along with a properly filed Motion to Recuse trial judge, Steven C. Grefer. In State of Louisiana Versus John Wesley Patton, criminal number 18-7474 in the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court. (Appendixes "C" & "D").
3. The Petitioner continued to seek the original trial transcripts to prove his claims. The 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge, Steven C. Grefer denied EVERY request. That motion and denials are (Appendixes "E" & "F").
4. A month went by without a ruling on the original "motion to recuse." So the Petitioner filed a writ of mandamus requesting the 5<sup>th</sup> circuit (state court) order the post conviction judge hear the motion to recuse on December 06, 2024. The court agreed with the Petitioner and ordered Judge Grefer to hear the motion within five (5) days. The Judge heard his own recusal on December 17, 2024, some five (5) days late. and Denied the Petitioner. (Appendix "C").
5. Petitioner filed "notice of intent to seek writs and motion to set a return date" on January 03, 2025. (Appendix "G"). The Jefferson Parish Clerk filed those motions on January 13, 2025.
6. The Petitioner filed a supervisory writ with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals for Louisiana, located in Gretna, Louisiana. (Appendix "B"). Writ number 2025 KH 00048.
7. The 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals for Louisiana denied that writ number 2025 KH 00048 on February 25, 2025. (Appendix "B").
8. The Petitioner filed a supervisory writ to the Louisiana State Supreme Court on or about March 18, 2025. (Appendix "A"). Writ number 2025 KH 00359.
9. On September 16, 2025 the Louisiana State Supreme Court denied 2025 KH 00359 without written order. (Appendix "A").
10. The Petitioner petitions the United States Supreme Court for Writ of Certiorari due on December 12, 2025.

(c)  
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## **Index to Appendices**

**Appendix "A"** The Louisiana Supreme Court Brief and judgement 2025 KH 00359 the Petitioner asks this court to review.

**Appendix "B"** The 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Brief and the opinion denying the Petitioner relief. The decision/opinion the Petitioner requested "supervisory jurisdiction" of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

**Appendix "C"** Original Motion to Recuse Included with Post Conviction. And the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court's original order denying the recusal.

**Appendix "D"** Original Application for Post Conviction Relief properly filed.

**Appendix "E"** The original request for Transcripts and documents to prove the Petitioner's post conviction.

**Appendix "F"** Judge Grefer's denial of the Petitioners request for transcription of the record to prove the Petitioner's thirty (30) claims. After the Petitioner had a legal post-conviction filed. This proves bias. The Judge flat out lied.

**Appendix "G"** Notice of Intent to Seek Supervisory Writs. Motion to Set Return Date.

**Appendix "H"** Original Federal Lawsuit order 2022 WL 3754192. Showing 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge Steven C. Grefer as a defendant number 15. Entitled John Wesley Patton, V. City of Westwego, et al.

**Appendix "I"** The "TRUE" Statement of Facts on State of Louisiana Versus John Wesley Patton, 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Parish of Jefferson, Division "J".

**(c)(i)**  
**Table of Authorities Cited**

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**In The  
Supreme Court of the United States**

**October Term 2025**

**Petition for Writ of Certiorari**

Petitioner respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari issues to review the judgement below.

**Opinions Below**

**John Wesley Patton V. Gary Westcott, DPSC Secretary, Warden Travis Day, BB Sixty  
Rayburn Correctional Center No. 2025-KH-00048, 2025WL615117 (La.App.5 Cir 2/25/25).  
Appears as Appendix "B".**

**John Wesley Patton V. Gary Westcott, DPSC Secretary, Warden Travis Day, BB Sixty  
Rayburn Correctional Center No. 2025-KH-00359, 416 So.3d 469 (Mem) (La 9/16/25).  
Appears as Appendix "A".**



## **Jurisdiction**

The Date the Highest State Court decided my case was September 16, 2025.

A copy of that decision appears at Appendix "A".

A rehearing was not sought.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under **28 U.S.C. 1257(a)**

## Statement of Case

On October 04, 2024 Petitioner filed his shell application for post conviction relief pursuant to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Article 930.3. (Appendix "D"). The Petitioner additionally served the 24th Judicial District Court Judge with a "motion to recuse" along with the Petitioner's original application for post conviction relief. (Appendix "C").

The Petitioner felt like the JUDGE Steven C. Grefer, of Division "J" could not be fair based on the fact, the Petitioner had included a number of claims against the Judge himself. The Petitioner felt the claims had merit and should be heard by a different Judge sitting in the 24th Judicial District Court. As of this writ no hearing has been held within the thirty (30) days required by law. Petitioner filed a "writ of mandamus." The Fifth Circuit ordered Judge Grefer to hear the motion within five (5) days of December 06, 2024. On December 17, 2024 Judge Grefer denied the Petitioners Motion to Recuse. (Appendix "C").

The Petitioner continued to seek the trial transcripts that proved his original application for recusal and his original application for post conviction relief. (Appendix "E" & "F").

**Petitioner was never served with a copy of the original denial of the Motion to recuse.**

On January 03, 2025 the Relator filed "Notice of Intent to seek Supervisory Writs" The notice was served upon the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Division "J" Along with a "motion to set return date." (Appendix "G").

The Jefferson Parish Clerk filed those motions on January 13, 2025. The Petitioner was never served with the Judge's original ruling or the denial. The Petitioner filed a "Supervisory Brief" on the recusal issue in the lower appeals court of Louisiana, the Fifth Circuit.

(Appendix "B").

On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals (Gretna) denied relief to the Petitioner. (Exhibit “B”) The Petitioner sought “supervisory review” on the original denial of the lower State Appeals Court ruling. The Petitioner filed a brief and received a denial on that brief on September 16, 2025 Louisiana Supreme Court number 2025 KH 00359. (Appendix “A”).

## Reasons for Granting the Petition

### United States Supreme Court, Rule 10(b)

Is the trial Judge required by law to recuse himself? After the Petitioner filed a Federal Civil Rights Lawsuit on the Parish of Jefferson located in Louisiana? And the Petitioner named the Judge as a "Defendant."? Did the trial judge abused his discretion in refusing to transfer the Petitioner's motion to recuse to recuse Judge Grefer from presiding over Petitioner's original application for post-conviction proceedings, when the presiding judge was originally named as a "Defendant" in a **Federal Civil Rights Action No. 20-3408 (B)**, or when, as in this case, the presiding judge has changed the official court record, or when the presiding judge has abused his contempt powers, or when the presiding judge had deprived the Petitioner of his constitutional right to judicial review, right to present a defense, to cross-examine, and the fundamental right to a fair trial already? The Petitioner's post conviction **claims 22 and 30** are directed at 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge, Steven C. Grefer's courtroom misconduct? And that makes him a witness in violation of the cannons and Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 671(A)(4). Can a Louisiana District Judge hear claims against him and still remain "fair" and "Impartial?"

**U.S.Sup.Ct. Rule 10(b)** The Louisiana Supreme Court has so far departed from the accepted and usual course of judicial proceedings. This Petitioner requests the Supreme Court exercise its power.

## Argument

The trial court erred when it refused to assign the Petitioner's Motion to Recuse Judge Grefer from presiding over all post-conviction proceedings in the instant matter to another Judge to hear?

A fair collateral review has been a longstanding basic requirement of due process. That right requires not only "an absence of actual bias in the trial cases" but also "prevents even the probability of unfairness." **In re Murchison**, 349 U.S. 133, 136 (1955).

The Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment requires "fair trial in a fair tribunal, before a judge who has no actual bias against the defendant." **Bracy v. Gramley**, 520 U.S. 899 (1997).

"Under the Due Process Clause, recusal is required when objectively speaking, the probability of acting bias on the part of the judge or decision-maker is too high to be constitutionally tolerable." **Rippo v. Baker**, 580 U.S. 285 (2017).

The Petitioner contends that the motion to recuse Judge Grefer from presiding over post-conviction proceedings, does in fact and in jurisprudence has merit.

1. The Petitioner contends that in 2020, he filed the case of **John Wesley Patton v. City of Westwego, et. al.**, 2022 WL 3754192 supra, wherein Judge Steven C. Grefer was named as a defendant. (Appendix "H").

2. The Petitioner contends that the Judiciary Complaints made against Judge Steven C. Grefer by the Petitioner, if proven to be true, would not only constitute violations of state and federal criminal statutes, but additionally the probability of acting bias on the part of the judge or decision-maker is too high to be tolerable.

3. The Petitioner contends that his stand-by counsel took over 200 pages of notes during the course of the trial in this matter. These hand-written notes by stand by counsel, attorney Price Quinn indicate that the Official Court Record has been deliberately and maliciously changed by 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge Steven C. Grefer by omitting several of the Petitioner's proper objections, in order to deprive Petitioner of his constitutionally protected right to judicial review. And assist his ex colleges' in railroading the Petitioner. In turn the Petitioner lost his "direct appeal" based on no proof found in the record. And that the Petitioner could never gain the transcripts to attach a copy to the Louisiana Appellate Courts.

4. The Petitioner contends that Judge Steven C. Grefer is named in multiple claims in the Petitioner's "original application for post conviction relief"

5. The Petitioner contends that during trial he represented himself pro-se, and was denied his right to present a defense, to cross-examination, and to the fundamental right to a fair trial by Judge Steven C. Grefer, who was and still remains "partial." Bias towards the Petitioner plight for freedom. Said Judge was friends with the two corrupt police detectives who framed the Petitioner.

Judge Steven C. Grefer presently has an ongoing Federal Civil Rights Complaint filed against him by Petitioner, Mr. John W. Patton, to the Federal Bureau of investigation and United States Department of Justice. See **John W. Patton v. City of Westwego**, supra. In fact, there is an open, ongoing, investigation of Judge Steven C. Grefer by the FBI Director, Kash Patel and United States Department of Justice on behalf of the Petitioner:

SCOTUS has held in **Johnson v. Mississippi**, supra:

“A judge who had been sued by a criminal defendant in a civil rights action was constitutionally barred from presiding over the defendant’s contempt proceedings.” The Court concluded, “the judge was so enmeshed in matters involving the defendant as to make it must appropriate for another judge to sit, because trial before an unbiased judge is essential to due process.”

In **Rippo v. Baker**, supra, the SCOTUS explained, “the Due Process Clause may sometimes demand recusal even when a judge has no actual bias.” “The asks not whether a judge harbors an actual, subjective bias, but instead whether, as an objective matter, the average judge in his position is likely to be neutral, or whether there is an unconstitutional potential for bias.” See **Williams v. Pennsylvania**, 579 U.S. 1, 136 S.Ct. 1899, 195 L.Ed. 2d 132 (2016) and **Lacaze v. Louisiana**, 583 U.S. 801, 138 S.Ct. 60, 199 L.Ed. 2d 1 (2017).

The Petitioner has filed his first Application for Post-Conviction Relief (APCR) with a government sanctioned investigation of the case, and with important documents that were specifically requested. That application was denied and is currently pending on writ of certiorari in the Louisiana Supreme Court Number 2025 KH 1003.

The Petitioner posits that Judge Steven C. Grefer has denied constitutional rights asserted and motions filed, with the malicious intent of impeding discovery of judicial, police, and prosecutorial misconduct. **Judge Steven C. Grefer was hand picked through manipulation of Louisiana District Rule 14's random assignment clause.** And is a "puppet" for Paul D. Connick's Office. Thereby can't be considered fair nor impartial.

Of critical importance, several of Petitioner's post conviction claims are directly against Judge Steven C. Grefer's prior rulings, handling of the trial and his partiality. And place Judge Steven C. Grefer on the witness stand. Judge Steven C. Grefer is now a witness in the pending post-conviction.

Another post conviction claim, which will be supported by evidence, will allege that the he did not get fair and public trial as guaranteed by the Louisiana Constitution Official Court Record has been altered/changed and that Relator has been unfairly prosecuted. In fact, several claims on the Relator's pending application named 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge, Steven C. Grefer as the violator of the Relator's Louisiana and United States Constitutional rights. Would this court have Judge Steven C. Grefer hear his own case on that important claim?

Petitioner notes that he has written multiple letters to Judge Steven C. Grefer, of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana referring to him as "dishonest," "unfair," and "pro-prosecution". SCOTUS held in **Mayberry v. Pennsylvania**, 400 U.S. 455, 465 (1971), that "recusal was constitutionally required where a judge had been verbally abused by a criminal defendant because no one so cruelly slandered is likely to maintain that calm detachment for fair adjudication."



See also **Louisiana Criminal Code Procedure, Article. 671:**

(A). In a criminal cause, a judge of any trial...shall be recused upon any of the following grounds:

(1) The judge is biased, prejudiced, or personally interested in the cause to such an extent that the judge would be unable to conduct a fair and impartial trial.

(4) The judge is a witness in the cause.

(6) The judge would be unable, for any other reason, to conduct a fair and impartial trial.

B. In a criminal cause, a judge...shall also be recused when there exists a substantial and objective basis that would reasonably be expected to prevent the judge from conducting any aspect of the cause in a fair and impartial manner.

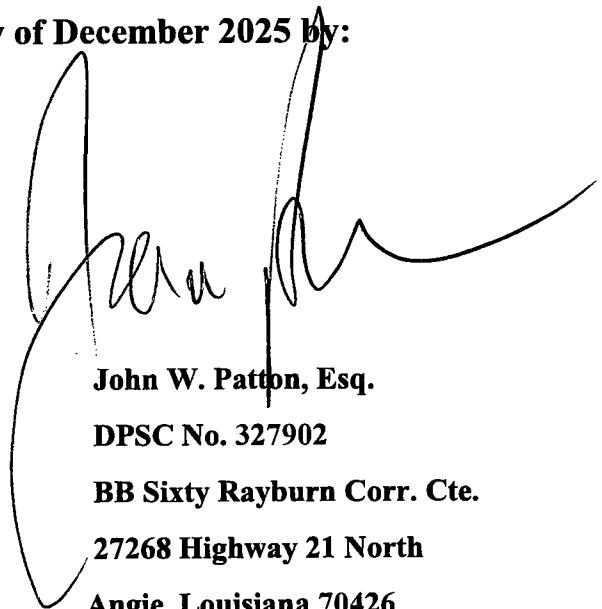
## **Conclusion**

**WHEREFORE**, for the reasons presented herein, that there are extraordinary reasons for the **GRANTING** of the Petition for Writ of Certiorari contained herein. And requests this Honorable Supreme Court invoke its original jurisdiction **28 U.S.C.A. 1251(a)** and **28 U.S.C.A. 1257(a)** State Court Certiorari.

Petitioner prays that this Honorable United States Supreme Court grant this Petition for Writ of Certiorari

Reversing the Petitioner's conviction and sentence and remanding for a New Trial.

**Respectfully submitted on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 2025 by:**

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John W. Patton', is written over the typed name and address.

**John W. Patton, Esq.**

**DPSC No. 327902**

**BB Sixty Rayburn Corr. Cte.**

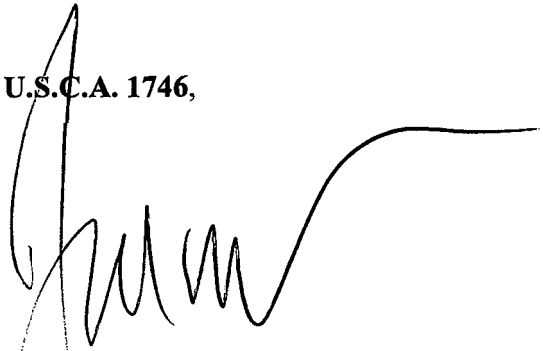
**27268 Highway 21 North**

**Angie, Louisiana 70426**

### **Verification Affidavit**

I do hereby swear under the penalty of perjury that the contents of the foregoing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and understanding.

I further swear pursuant to penalty of perjury, 28 U.S.C.A. 1746,



**John W. Patton, Affiant**

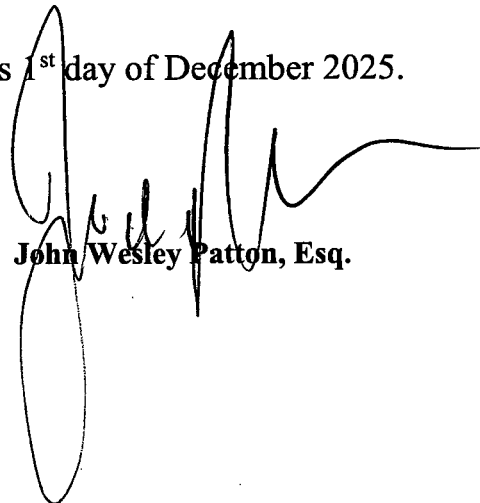
**DPSC No. 327902**

**BB Sixty Rayburn Corr Cte.**

**27268 Highway 21 North**

**Angie, Louisiana 70426**

**SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED**, before me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 2025.



**John Wesley Patton, Esq.**