

*** CAPITAL CASE ***

DOCKET NO. _____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

BILLY LEON KEARSE,

Petitioner,

vs.

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Respondent.

ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO FLORIDA SUPREME
COURT

**DEATH WARRANT SIGNED
EXECUTION SET MARCH 3, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

Counsel for Petitioner, **Billy Leon Kears**, respectfully asks leave of this Court to proceed *in forma pauperis* in this proceeding. Petitioner has been found indigent by each state and federal court in which he has challenged his conviction and sentence, and he has been permitted to proceed *in forma pauperis* before each court, including: the Florida Supreme Court, the Circuit Court of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for St. Lucie County, Florida; the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida; the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit; and this Court.

The Office of the Capital Collateral Regional Counsel – South (CCRC-South) is a Florida state agency charged with the statutory responsibility of providing legal

representation in both state and federal capital postconviction proceedings to people convicted and sentenced to death in Florida. Part IV, Chapter 27, Florida Statutes (1994), is the CCRC-South enabling statute. CCRC-South has been counsel of record for Petitioner in his postconviction proceedings since September 2000. Undersigned counsel is a member of the Bar of this Court and the acting head of CCRC-South.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 39, Petitioner requests permission to proceed *in forma pauperis* in this action.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Suzanne Keffer

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