

No. _____

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

MICHAEL CELESTINE,
PETITIONER,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
RESPONDENT.

On Petition for Writ of Certiorari
to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS

NOW COMES Petitioner Michael Celestine, through undersigned counsel, and moves this Honorable Court for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* and to file the attached Petition for Writ of Certiorari without prepayment of costs, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 39 and 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(d)(7). A United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana appointed the Federal Public Defender to represent Mr. Celestine. *See United States v. Celestine*, No. 2:24-cr-092, ECF No. 7 (E.D. La. March 27, 2024) (order attached hereto).

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully moves this Honorable Court for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* and to file the attached Petition for Writ of Certiorari without prepayment of costs.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of August, 2026.

/s/ Celia Rhoads
Celia Rhoads
Assistant Federal Public Defender
Counsel of Record
500 Poydras Street, Suite 318
Hale Boggs Federal Building
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
(504) 589-7930
celia_rhoads@fd.org

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CR.NO. 24-14 MAG

VERSUS

ORDER

X

Appointing Counsel

Substituting Counsel For:

MICHAEL CELESTINE

Ratifying Prior Service

Extending Appointment For Appeal

CHARGE: POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A FELON

X FELONY _____ MISDEMEANOR

X The defendant, having satisfied this Court that he/she: (1) is financially unable to employ counsel, and (2) does not wish to waive counsel, and because the interests of justice so require, the Federal Public Defender named below is hereby appointed to represent this defendant in the above designated case until relieved by order of the District Court:

**CLAUDE KELLY, FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER, HALE BOGGS FEDERAL BLDG.,
RM 318, 500 CAMP ST, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130 PHONE: (504)589-7930**

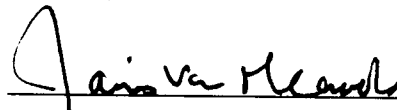
____ Federal Public Defender is appointed for the limited purpose of:

____ It appearing to the Court that although the defendant is financially unable to employ counsel, he/she is totally indigent.

____ IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the defendant pay to the Clerk, U. S. District Court for services of counsel, the total amount of \$ _____ to be paid within 10 working days
or by _____.

____ IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the defendant is to pay to the Clerk, U.S. District Court, for services of counsel, \$ _____ per month. This amount is to be paid, beginning on _____, 20____, until further orders of the Court.

Dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, on MARCH 27, 2024



UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Copy to Financial Unit Clerk (*Only if defendant is ordered to pay*)