

**Office of the State Public Defender**

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**Confidential Legal Mail**

April 28, 2022

Mr. Cedric Johnson  
P.O. Box K61104  
CSP San Quentin  
San Quentin, CA 94974

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I just received your letter dated April 24. You make a good point: your question was who assigned me, not who was assigned. I answered the wrong question. To answer the question, after Nina retired, management in our office (OSPD) needed to divide up the cases she was working on as counsel and the cases she was watching over where the appeal was final, but habeas counsel had not yet been appointed. Your case is in that second category: appeal final and no habeas lawyer yet. Someone in the office (I don't remember exactly who) asked me if I would be willing to take over the duties of keeping track of your case, and I said I'd be happy to do that. So, I was not exactly appointed or assigned by anyone. Instead, I volunteered to do it after Nina's retirement. To be clear though, I haven't been appointed by a court to represent you, act as your lawyer, or offer legal advice. Our office just voluntarily keeps track of cases and communicates with clients in your position. There is no formal appointment process or anything like that. It's just an informal agreement by whatever OSPD lawyer is free to answer questions and things like. As I said, I'm happy to do that for you.

I hope that answers your question. Feel free to write again if there's anything else I can answer.

Yours truly,

/s/ Hassan Gorguinpour

Hassan Gorguinpour  
Supervising Deputy State Public Defender