



CRIMINAL DIVISION
The Superior Court
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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CHAMBERS OF
WILLIAM C. RYAN
JUDGE
DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL WRITS CENTER

May 5, 2023

Cedric Johnson CDCR# K-61104
San Quentin State Prison
San Quentin, CA 94974

Re: Case No. TA037977

Dear Mr. Johnson,

This letter is in response to your letter to Presiding Judge Samantha Jessner dated April 23, 2023, which we received on April 27, 2023, inquiring about why you have not yet had habeas corpus counsel appointed under Proposition 66. I have been asked to respond as I am the judge most familiar with the capital habeas petitions pending in our court.

The rules that implement Proposition 66 provide that inmates with the oldest judgments of death receive priority in the appointment of habeas counsel. The 25 oldest judgments are the first group eligible for appointed counsel. Cal. Rule of Court 4.561. The Habeas Corpus Resource Center maintains the list of persons with the oldest judgments of death. *Id.* According to that list, your judgment is not among the 25 oldest without habeas counsel. That is why you have not yet been appointed counsel.

Two other circumstances which are delaying the appointment of habeas counsel are that only four lawyers state-wide have qualified to be appointed capital habeas counsel, and the Legislature has yet to appropriate funds to pay such counsel.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "WCR", written over a horizontal line.

William C. Ryan
Judge of the Superior Court
Director, Criminal Writs Center

WCR/ga