

NO. 07-110

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

October Term, 2006

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A. J. ARAVE,  
Petitioner,

v.

MAXWELL HOFFMAN,  
Respondent.

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On Petition For Writ Of Certiorari  
To The United States Court of Appeals For The Ninth Circuit

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BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO  
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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## CAPITAL CASE

### QUESTIONS PRESENTED

Respondent paraphrases Petitioner's questions as follows:

1. Does the reference to "gross error" in this Court's 1970 opinion of *McMann v. Richardson* superimpose a higher level of deficient performance than was later established in *Strickland v. Washington*?
2. Does *Hill v. Lockhart* impose a higher, more rigid pleading and proof requirement than *Strickland v. Washington*, including in part a demand of specific wording the lack of which can be challenged for the first time on a petition for rehearing and suggestion for rehearing *en banc* to the Court of Appeals?

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**BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONER'S  
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI**

Maxwell Hoffman, by and through his attorneys, Joan M. Fisher and Ellison Matthews, files this Brief in Opposition to the Petition for Writ of Certiorari and respectfully requests that the Court decline *certiorari* review to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals' decision and its application of longstanding precedent to the facts of the plea bargaining process is correct, is consistent with this Court's and the Circuit Court of Appeals' decisions and involves no question of exceptional importance. The State's petition should be denied.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

Maxwell Hoffman's limited ability to perceive and understand the complex proceedings to which he has been subjected, the lack of fundamental fairness in the proceedings which led to the imposition of the death penalty, and the relative culpability of the actors underlie the issues here.

The District Court summarized best Mr. Hoffman's unique history:

There is no question that Hoffman suffered from mental, intellectual and drug abuse problems in the years leading up to the murder of Denise Williams. Hoffman was raised in a violent and abusive household, and was both a victim of abuse, and exposed to the abuse of his siblings. After his father's death when Hoffman was 10 years old, Hoffman's mother placed him in foster care because of his behavior problems. Hoffman was admitted to the Metropolitan State Hospital in California, when he was 24 years old, and was diagnosed with "psychosis manifested by delusional and violent behavior," and anti-social personality disorder.

Hoffman also has significant problems learning, and is not well-educated. At the time of the offense Hoffman could not read or write, and could not be taught to read or write. Hoffman has had numerous IQ tests over the years. The most recent testing indicated that Hoffman's IQ is 74. This puts Hoffman in the borderline mentally retarded range.

*Hoffman v. Arave*, No. 94-0200, 11 (D. Idaho, Mar. 30, 2002); App. at 11.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals set out the relevant factual background relating to the murder:

The facts of the murder of Denise Williams have been recounted in numerous prior decisions in state and federal courts, and are recited only briefly here.<sup>1</sup> Hoffman was employed by Richard Holmes, a drug dealer. Williams, a police informant, initiated a controlled buy with Holmes, and as a consequence, Holmes was arrested for distributing controlled substances. After Holmes was released on bail, Sam Longstreet and Jeff Slawson, two of Williams's friends, went to meet with Holmes to assure him that they had nothing to do with his arrest. Holmes brokered a deal for these two friends to deliver Williams to Holmes at a camp in Idaho. Longstreet and Slawson dropped Williams off and left her with Ron Wages, one of Holmes's associates. Thereafter, Hoffman and Holmes went to the camp and met up with Wages and Williams. Holmes kicked Williams in the head, and told Williams that she was "a dead bitch." Holmes told Hoffman and Wages, "You know what to do," and left.

Hoffman, Wages, and Williams drove around for several hours. Hoffman and Wages forced Williams to write letters exonerating Holmes of the controlled substances charges. At some point, Hoffman stopped the car and took Williams into a cave. He cut her throat while Wages waited in the car. As Hoffman was coming back to the car, Williams began to crawl up an embankment near the cave. Wages ran over to Williams, and stabbed her with the knife Hoffman was carrying. Wages then began to bury her with rocks, and Hoffman joined in. The evidence showed that Williams might have eventually died either from the original cut by Hoffman or from the wound inflicted by Wages, but that the actual cause of death was a blow from a rock.

Hoffman and Wages then drove to Wages's[sic] sisters' house, where the two cleaned the car, and burned their clothes and Williams's[sic] clothes. Later, at Holmes's[sic] house, Hoffman cut up the knife with a cutting torch.

*Hoffman v. Arave*, 455 F. 3d 926, 928-29 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2006).

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<sup>1</sup> See *Hoffman v. Arave*, 236 F.3d 523 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2001); *Hoffman v. Arave*, 73 F.Supp.2d 1192 (D. Idaho 1998); *Hoffman v. Arave*, 973 F.Supp. 1152 (D. Idaho 1997); *Hoffman v. State*, 142 Idaho 27, 121 P.3d 958 (2005); *State v. Hoffman*, 123 Idaho 638, 851 P.2d 934 (1993).

The Ninth Circuit also set out the relevant procedural history.

#### A. Idaho State Proceedings

On August 22, 1988, Hoffman was charged with first-degree murder. The court appointed William Wellman as counsel. Wellman had never tried a murder case, and had no formal training on defending capital cases. At the time he was selected to represent Hoffman, Wellman had done contract work with the Owyhee County public defender's office for several years, and criminal defense work constituted about half of his practice.

Five weeks before trial, the State offered Hoffman a plea bargain: If Hoffman would plead guilty to first-degree murder, the State would not pursue the death penalty. The State also made clear that it intended to seek the death penalty if Hoffman rejected the plea agreement. Wellman advised Hoffman that he should reject the plea agreement. Wellman believed that the Idaho death penalty scheme was unconstitutional based on *Adamson v. Ricketts*, 865 F.2d 1011, 1023-28 (9th Cir.1988) (en banc), *abrogated by Walton v. Arizona*, 497 U.S. 639, 110 S.Ct. 3047, 111 L.Ed.2d 511 (1990), where this court found Arizona's death penalty scheme unconstitutional. Wellman saw no material difference between Arizona's death penalty scheme and the death penalty scheme in Idaho. He thus recommended that Hoffman reject the plea agreement because he believed it was only a matter of time until Idaho's death penalty scheme would be declared unconstitutional as well. Hoffman took Wellman's advice and rejected the plea agreement.

In February 1989, only three weeks before trial, the court appointed co-counsel Charles Coulter. Coulter had tried two vehicular manslaughter cases, but that was the extent of his homicide experience. He had no experience with capital cases.

The guilt phase of Hoffman's trial commenced on March 7, 1989. The jury heard eight days of testimony. Defense counsel presented no evidence of Hoffman's mental capacity on the night of Williams's murder. Instead, Wellman and Coulter's central strategy was to paint Wages as the more culpable of the two.<sup>2</sup> After five hours of deliberation, the jury returned a conviction for first-degree murder and found a sentencing enhancement, making Hoffman "death eligible."

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<sup>2</sup> At trial, Wages was one of the principle witnesses against Hoffman. In exchange for Wages' testimony, the prosecution agreed not to seek the death penalty against him. Both Longstreet and Slawson pleaded to second-degree kidnaping charges. The prosecution recommended a sentence of at least six months in jail, and each received a sentence of only one year in jail. Holmes was originally charged with kidnaping as well, but was killed in prison before he was brought to trial. Thus, in the end, the State pursued the death penalty only against Hoffman. *Hoffman v. Arave*, 455 F.3d at 929.

The sentencing phase of the trial began on June 9, 1989. After weighing the aggravating and mitigating circumstances, the court imposed the death penalty.<sup>3</sup> On July 25, 1989, Hoffman filed a post-conviction petition in state court. The state court denied the petition. On January 29, 1993, the Idaho Supreme Court affirmed Hoffman's sentence. *See Hoffman*, 851 P.2d at 945.

#### B. Federal Habeas Proceedings

Hoffman filed an initial habeas petition in the United States District Court for the District of Idaho on December 1, 1994. On June 13, 1997, the district court dismissed several claims on the grounds of procedural default. On December 28, 1998, the district court dismissed the remainder of the claims on their merits. On January 3, 2001, we concluded that Hoffman's ineffective assistance of counsel claims were not procedurally barred. *See Hoffman*, 236 F.3d at 535-36. We also held that Hoffman's pre-sentencing interview conducted by the state probation officer was a "critical stage" of the proceeding, during which the Sixth Amendment right to counsel attached. *See id.* at 540-41. We remanded for further evidentiary hearings on Hoffman's ineffective assistance of counsel claims, and for a finding whether the deprivation of counsel during the pre-sentencing interview was harmless. *See id.* at 542-43. We affirmed dismissal of the remainder of Hoffman's claims. *See id.*

On remand, the district court held a five-day evidentiary hearing. The court heard substantial expert testimony about Hoffman's mental capacity, and testimony from Hoffman's trial counsel. After hearing oral argument by both parties, the district court granted Hoffman's habeas petition in part and denied it in part. The district court rejected three of Hoffman's ineffective assistance of counsel claims, specifically that counsel: (a) failed to challenge Hoffman's competency to stand trial; (b) advised Hoffman to reject a plea agreement that would have foreclosed the State from seeking the death penalty; and (c) failed to investigate or present evidence of Hoffman's diminished capacity at trial.

But the district court did accept one of Hoffman's ineffective assistance of counsel claims: that Hoffman had received ineffective assistance of counsel during sentencing. The district court found that Wellman and Coulter had not sufficiently investigated and presented mitigation evidence at sentencing that might have kept the trial judge from imposing a death sentence. The district court also found that the state trial judge's

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<sup>3</sup> The Ninth Circuit noted, "[t]he Idaho death penalty scheme in existence at the time of Hoffman's sentencing called for the judge, not a jury, to decide whether the death penalty was warranted. *See State v. Charboneau*, 116 Idaho 129, 774 P.2d 299, 315-17 (1989), *withdrawn and superseded by* 124 Idaho 497, 861 P.2d 67 (1993). To impose the death penalty, the court had to find that the mitigating factors, considered cumulatively, did not outweigh the gravity of each aggravating factor, considered separately." *See Hoffman*, 455 F.3d at 930.

decision to deprive Hoffman of counsel during the pre-sentence interview was not harmless because it “dictated” trial counsels' sentencing strategy. The district court granted the habeas petition on these two claims and ordered the State to re-sentence Hoffman within 120 days of its order.

*Hoffman v. Arave*, 455 F.3d at 929-30. The Court granted relief finding that trial counsel’s representation of Hoffman during the plea bargaining stage was ineffective.

#### Counsel’s Ineffective Assistance During the Plea Process

On February 6, 1989, the Owyhee County prosecutor proposed that Hoffman plead guilty to first-degree murder in exchange for an agreement by the State not to pursue the death penalty against Hoffman during sentencing. The offer expired ten days later on February 16, 1989.

Counsel’s research yielded the Ninth Circuit opinion, *Adamson v. Ricketts*, 865 F.2d 1011 (9th Cir. 1988) in which the circuit court invalidated Arizona’s death penalty scheme. Counsel recognized that both the Arizona and Idaho death penalty schemes allowed judges to make factual determinations to support a death sentence. *Adamson* proclaimed this practice unconstitutional. *Id.* at 1029-39. Based on the similarities between the Arizona and Idaho schemes at the time, counsel advised Mr. Hoffman to reject the State’s offer.

In the month preceding the State’s offer but after *Adamson*, the legal landscape altered notably with no sign of calming during the ten day duration of the State’s offer. The Arizona Supreme Court decided *State v. Walton*, 769 P.2d 1017 (Ariz. 1989), *overruled in part by Ring v. Arizona*, 536 U.S. 584, 603 (2002), reaffirming its position that jury sentencing was not constitutionally mandated in death penalty cases; two challenges to Idaho’s death penalty scheme were raised on an *Adamson* theory and a mere four days prior to the State’s offer, the Ninth Circuit stayed the mandate in *Adamson* until the Supreme Court chose to grant or deny a Writ of

Certiorari. At the time of the plea offer, the Arizona Supreme Court decision in *Walton* was in direct conflict with the Ninth Circuit decision in *Adamson*. Counsel was unaware of this conflict.

The Ninth Circuit in the present matter did not find it unreasonable that counsel failed to predict which of the theories would eventually become the law, nor did it find unreasonable counsel's attempt to draw a connection between the Arizona and Idaho statutes, or even for arguing a reasonable extension of the Ninth Circuit's precedent. However, the Ninth Circuit found:

[C]ounsel advised Hoffman to give up the certainty of avoiding the death penalty so that he could go to trial, a risky proposition with a substantial downside. More importantly, he offered this flawed advice without conducting reasonable research into the legal landscape. We therefore conclude that Wellman's legal representation of Hoffman during the plea bargaining stage was not objectively reasonable.

*Hoffman v. Arave*, 455 F.3d 941 (9th Cir. 2006).

As a result of this deficient performance, the court also found that Hoffman suffered prejudice:

Had Hoffman been presented with an accurate evaluation (1) of the very real possibility of receiving the death penalty at the end of the penalty phase; (2) of the very real chance that the Idaho death penalty scheme would be upheld; and (3) of the almost nonexistent chance that if he had gone to trial he could have achieved anything better than the result promised in the plea agreement, there is more than a reasonable probability that he would have accepted the plea.

*Id.* at 942.

## REASONS FOR DENYING THE PETITION

Petitioner's ("State") challenge of the Ninth Circuit's application of longstanding precedent is not a compelling reason for the Court to grant a Writ of Certiorari. S. Ct. R. 10 (2007). This case does not deserve a Writ of Certiorari.

In the proceedings below, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals applied the long standing precedent of *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668 (1984). Despite arguments to the contrary, the Court of Appeals followed the appropriate legal standards without opening the door to "a cavalcade of challenges." Petition at 9. The Ninth Circuit made conscious efforts to "eliminate the distorting effects of hindsight, reconstruct the circumstances of counsel's challenged conduct, and . . . evaluate the conduct from counsel's perspective at the time." *Id.* at 689. As a result, the Court found that counsel's failure to completely research the law, in light of the precipitous consequences facing Mr. Hoffman, fell below "the range of competence demanded of attorneys in criminal cases." *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 687.

The Circuit Court then determined that the prejudicial effect of counsel's unprofessional conduct resulted in a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's errors, Mr. Hoffman would have accepted the prosecution's offer and pled guilty. Mr. Hoffman complied with all of the necessary pleading requirements to establish that there was a reasonable probability that he would have accepted the plea offer but for counsel's unprofessional error. Despite Petitioner's protestations, the Ninth Circuit established no new standards or precedents.

## I.

### THE NINTH CIRCUIT REASONABLY APPLIED LONGSTANDING SUPREME COURT PRECEDENT TO A PARTICULARIZED FACT PATTERN, ADOPTED NO NEW STANDARDS, AND CREATED NO NEW PRECEDENTS

#### A. Counsel's Actions Fell Below an Objective Standard of Reasonableness - the Proper Standard Which Encompasses Any Alleged 'Gross Error Standard'

##### 1. The State Demands a Higher Standard of Deficient Performance Than *Strickland*

Petitioner first argues that this Court must grant its Petition for Writ of Certiorari because the Ninth Circuit failed to follow the 'gross error standard' allegedly established in *McMann v. Richardson*, 397 U.S. 759 (1970). The State asserts that "[i]n the context of recommending a client plead guilty, when the client is informed of the plea offer, the defendant 'must demonstrate gross error on the part of counsel.'" Petition at 11, quoting *McMann*, 397 U.S. at 772.

Petitioner's reliance on the single quotation is misplaced. *McMann* does not offer any reasonable analysis as to the establishment and implementation of the purported 'Gross Error Standard.'

There is no further discussion, no citation, internally in *McMann* or to any other case, where the Court provides instruction as to the method in which the lower courts are to interpret and employ this 'Gross Error Standard.' In fact, nowhere in *McMann* is the phrase, 'gross error' used other than in the quotation asserted by Petitioner. The case law Petitioner cites as supporting *McMann* also fails to discuss the issue. Each case cited in support of the 'Gross Error Standard' relies exclusively on *McMann* as the foundation for this theory.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> *Turner v. Calderon*, 281 F.3d 851(9th Cir. 2002), which followed *McMann*, is itself cited only seven times; never as support of application of a 'Gross Error Standard.' Of those citations, four are for the proposition that trial counsel are not required to predict what a jury will do, two for the proposition that plea negotiations constitute a critical stage in the trial process for Sixth Amendment purposes, and one stating that *Strickland* applies to claims of ineffective assistance of counsel arising out of the plea process.

Another fault in relying upon the 'Gross Error Standard' is that it ignores clearly established precedent. *Strickland* has been applied in the context of challenges to a defendant's Sixth Amendment right to the effective assistance of counsel since 1984. *McMann* is the predecessor of *Strickland*. To rely on a single phrase from a prior case would be stepping back in time. While *McMann* may speak to the context of rejecting a plea offer in 1970, any standards would be, and in fact were, replaced by the *Strickland* two-prong ineffective assistance of counsel test, the test properly applied by the Ninth Circuit.

As all the Federal Courts of Appeals have now held, the proper standard for attorney performance is that of reasonably effective assistance. The Court indirectly recognized as much when it stated in *McMann v. Richardson*, that a guilty plea cannot be attacked as based on inadequate legal advice unless counsel was not 'a reasonably competent attorney' and the advice was not 'within the range of competence demanded of attorneys in criminal cases.' When a convicted defendant complains of the ineffectiveness of counsel's assistance, the defendant must show that counsel's representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness.

*Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 687-88, quoting, *McMann v. Richardson*, 397 U.S. at 770, 771 (internal citations omitted).

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*Wade v. California*, 450 F.2d 726 (9th Cir. 1971), was last cited in 1974 to support the position that a prisoner had exhausted each of his remedies. *Harris v. Sup. Ct. of Cal.*, 500 F.2d 1124 (9th Cir. 1974).

Finally, and perhaps most telling is, *Long v. Brewer*, 667 F.2d 742 (8th Cir. 1982) which was cited in note 24 of the Attorney General of Florida's Brief of Petitioner in *Strickland v. Washington* as an example of "behavior that fell miserably below that which might be expected from an ordinary fallible lawyer" to support the idea that "[w]ithout guidance from this Court, various courts have extended the McMann 'standard' to all Sixth Amendment ineffective assistance claims in general and have affirmatively abandoned any fair trial/fundamental due process analysis, in favor of a labyrinth of lists and a mush of semantics conceived in the serenity of the appellate process." *Strickland v. Washington* Briefs, Petitioner's Brief, 1982 U.S. Briefs 1554. What Petitioner in this case should have realized was that each of these cases, all decided prior to the advent of *Strickland* and its two prong test for ineffective assistance of counsel, point directly towards the proper standard.

2. Counsel's Sole Reliance on an Incomplete Understanding of the Law Falls Below an Objective Standard of Reasonableness

The Circuit Court correctly held that counsel's sole reliance on *Adamson* "fell below an objective standard of reasonableness." *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 688. Counsel relied exclusively on *Adamson v. Ricketts*, 865 F.2d at 1028-29 and advised Mr. Hoffman to reject a plea offer that would eliminate the possibility of receiving a death sentence. Soon after the *Adamson* decision, however, the Arizona Supreme Court reaffirmed its opinion as to the constitutionality of its death penalty scheme. Further, shortly before the State extended the plea offer, the Ninth Circuit granted a stay of the mandate of *Adamson* pending a United States Supreme Court ruling and the Arizona Supreme Court reaffirmed its position in direct conflict with the Ninth Circuit. *See State v. Walton*, 769 P.2d 1017 (1989), *overruled in part by Ring v. Arizona*, 536 U.S. 584 (2002). Having based his decision on *Adamson* from weeks prior and the similarity of the Arizona and Idaho death penalty schemes, counsel advised that Mr. Hoffman reject the State's plea offer. Counsel was inexcusably unaware of how rapidly the law was changing at the time of the plea offer. As such, his decision to advise Mr. Hoffman to reject the offer was made without a clear understanding of what the law was at the time.

[W]ith the state of the law in turmoil both in Arizona and in Idaho, and with conflicts between this court and the state supreme courts of both states, a reasonable attorney would have recognized the substantial risk of advising a client to reject a plea agreement. Because [counsel] possessed a deficient understanding of the law, he led Hoffman to believe that his sentence would be the same whether he accepted the plea bargain or was convicted at trial.

*Hoffman v. Arave*, 455 F.3d at 926, 941.

"The proper measure of attorney performance remains simply reasonableness under prevailing professional norms," *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 688. The "[p]revailing norms of practice

as reflected in American Bar Association standards . . . are guides to determining what is reasonable . . . .” *Id.* at 689.

Each attorney possesses a “duty under the Rules of Professional Conduct to ‘provide competent representation to a client,’ which requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation necessary for a complex and specialized area of the law.” ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases R. 6.1 (2003) (*quoting* ABA Model Rules of Prof’l Conduct R. 1.1 cmt. 1 (2007)). *See also* ABA Model Rules of Prof’l Conduct R. 1.1 cmt. 5 (2007) (Competent handling of a particular matter includes inquiry into and analysis of . . . legal elements of the problem . . . adequate preparation. The required attention and preparation are determined in part by what is at stake; major litigation . . . require[s] more extensive treatment than matters of . . . lesser complexity and consequence).

Petitioner scoffs at the Ninth Circuit’s concern that “[Mr. Hoffman] risked much in exchange for very little.” Petition at 9. The Ninth Circuit’s opinion recognizes that the consequences of litigation *do* in fact play a significant role in the determination of counsel’s competence. In fact, the greater the risk, the greater the degree of competence required. “The required attention and preparation are determined in part by what is at stake.” Model Rules Prof’l Conduct 1.1 cmt. 5 (2007). While Petitioner argues that “no jurisdiction has required an attorney to assess the validity of a federal circuit case based upon the degree of risks associated with receiving a particular sentence,” Petition at 16, it blindly ignores the wisdom and guidance provided by the Model Rules.

In light of this principle, the Ninth Circuit found that, “[i]f there was a high probability that Hoffman was not going to receive the death penalty, [counsel] might have been reasonable in

considering our decision in *Adamson* as an additional reason to reject the plea agreement.”

*Hoffman v. Arave*, 455 F.3d. 926, 941. “But Hoffman’s chance of receiving the death penalty was not minimal, a fact that counsel vastly underestimated and that made counsel’s failure to investigate *Adamson* more disastrous.” *Id.*

Petitioner argues that “[i]t is incomprehensible that *Adamson* is ‘good law’ if there was not a ‘high probability Hoffman was going to receive the death penalty,’ but ‘bad law’ if there was a high probability that he would receive the death penalty.” Petition at 16. This argument misstates the Ninth Circuit’s position. It isn’t that the character of *Adamson* changes depending upon the penalty to be imposed, but rather, the standard by which the courts measure the competence required of counsel in a given matter and therefore, the standard by which the courts measure the effectiveness of counsel that changes depending upon the consequences of the litigation. *See Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 687-89; Model Rules of Prof’l Conduct 1.1 cmt. 5 (2007). Thus, the correct position is precisely stated by the Ninth Circuit. “If there was a high probability that Hoffman was not going to receive the death penalty, [counsel] might have been reasonable in considering our decision in *Adamson* as an additional reason to reject the plea agreement.” *Hoffman*, 455 F.3d. at 941. “But Hoffman’s chance of receiving the death penalty was not minimal, a fact that counsel vastly underestimated and that made counsel’s failure to investigate *Adamson* more disastrous.” *Id.* By following *Strickland*, the ABA Guidelines for the Appointment & Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases, and the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, “risking much” increased the demand for competent representation by counsel. As a result, counsel’s actions fell below an objective standard of reasonableness when

he advised Mr. Hoffman to reject a plea offer based on a sole reading of *Adamson* without understanding the rapidly changing legal landscape.

**B. The State's Claim That Mr. Hoffman Failed to Plead Facts Sufficient under *Hill* Comes Too Late and Mr. Hoffman Has Pled Facts More than Sufficient to Satisfy Any Pleading Requirement**

**1. The State is Procedurally Barred from Arguing that Mr. Hoffman Failed to Plead Facts Sufficient Under *Hill* When it Raised the Argument for the First Time in its Request for Rehearing**

The State argued for the first time that Mr. Hoffman hadn't *affirmatively stated* in his Writ of Habeas Corpus that he would have accepted the plea offer but for counsel's unprofessional errors in its Request for Rehearing With Suggestion for Rehearing En Banc. The State did not raise this argument in the district court. Nor did it raise this issue in its appeal to the Ninth Circuit. A party may not raise new and additional matters for the first time in a petition for rehearing. *United States v. Bongiorno*, 110 F.3d 132, 133 (1st Cir. 1997); *Kale v. Combined Ins. Co.*, 924 F.2d 1161, 1169 (1st Cir. 1991) (“[a] party cannot be permitted to raise a new issue for the first time on a petition for rehearing in the circuit court”); *FDIC v. Massingil*, 30 F.3d 601 (5th Cir. 1994); *Cosco v. United States*, 922 F.2d 302 (6th Cir. 1990); *Pentax Corp. v. Robison*, 135 F.3d 760 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *Lockard v. Equifax, Inc.*, 163 F.3d 1259 (11th Cir. 1998). The State must not be permitted to raise the issue in a Petition for Writ of Certiorari.

**2. Mr. Hoffman Pled Facts Sufficient to Satisfy Pleading Requirements Mentioned in *Hill***

The State places particular emphasis on the Court's opinion in *Hill v. Lockhart*, 474 U.S. 52 (1985). “Petitioner did not allege in his habeas petition that, had counsel correctly informed him about his parole eligibility date, he would have pleaded not guilty and insisted on going to