Supreme Court of California
Jorge E. Navarrete, Clerk and Executive Officer of the Court
Electronically RECEIVED on 9/24/2026 9:40:54 AM

Supreme Court of California
Jorge E. Navarrete, Clerk and Executive Officer of the Court
Electronically FILED on 9/24/2026 by Larry Blake, Jr., Deputy Clerk

Office of the State Public Defender

OAKLAND OFFICE
1111 Broadway, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 267-3300 (510) 452-8712 (fax)
www.ospd.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
770 L Street, Suite 1000
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-2676 (916) 327-0459 (fax)
www.ospd.ca.gov

September 24, 2026 **CAPITAL CASE**

Mr. Jorge Navarrete
Clerk and Executive Officer
Supreme Court of the State of California
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: *People v. Johnny Morales,* No. S137307
Focus Letter

Dear Mr. Navarrete:

This case is scheduled for oral argument on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. At that hearing, counsel for appellant intends to focus on the following issue:

1. The first claim raised in Appellant's Opening Brief: The special circumstance findings and death judgment must be reversed because the state deprived Mr. morales of his right to the assistance of capital defense counsel at the critical pretrial and plea-bargaining stages in violation of the Sixth amendment and article I, section 14 of the California Constitution; alternatively, the matter must be remanded to the trial court to conduct a new hearing into Mr. Morales's claim that he was deprived of the effective assistance of counsel at the plea-bargaining stage

Thank you for bringing this letter to the Court's attention.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
C. Delaine Renard
Supervising Deputy State Public Defender

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

Case Name: *People v. Johnny Morales*
Case Number: California Supreme Court No. S137307
San Bernardino County Superior Court
No. FVA015456

I, **Kecia A. Bailey**, declare as follows: I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this cause. My business address is 1111 Broadway, Suite 1000, Oakland, CA 94607. I served a copy of the following document(s):

APPELLANT'S FOCUS LETTER

by enclosing it in envelopes and placing the envelopes for collection and mailing with the United States Postal Service with postage fully prepaid on the date and at the place shown below following our ordinary business practices.

The envelopes were addressed and mailed on **September 24, 2026**, as follows:

JOHNNY MORALES, V-94083
CSP-Sacramento
B7-101-U
P.O. Box 290001
Represa, CA 95671

CLERK OF THE COURT
San Bernardino County Superior Court
247 West 3rd Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0063

The aforementioned document(s) were served electronically (via TrueFiling) to the individuals listed below on **September 24, 2026**

AMANDA LLOYD
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
amanda.lloyd@doj.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA APPELLATE PROJECT
filing@capsf.org

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Signed on **September 24, 2026**, at Sacramento County, CA.

Kecia A. Bailey Digitally signed by Kecia A. Bailey
Date: 2026.09.24 09:31:36 -07'00'

Kecia A. Bailey

Supreme Court of California
Jorge E. Navarrete, Clerk and Executive Officer of the Court
Electronically FILED on 9/24/2026 by Larry Blake, Jr., Deputy Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Supreme Court of California

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Supreme Court of California

Case Name: **PEOPLE v. MORALES (JOHNNY)**
Case Number: **S137307**
Lower Court Case Number:

1. At the time of service I was at least 18 years of age and not a party to this legal action.

2. My email address used to e-serve: **delaine.renard@ospd.ca.gov**

3. I served by email a copy of the following document(s) indicated below:

Title(s) of papers e-served:

Filing Type	Document Title
LETTER	2026_09_24_Morales_Focus_Letter

Service Recipients:

Person Served	Email Address	Type	Date / Time
Attorney Attorney General - San Diego Office Court Added	sdag.docketing@doj.ca.gov	e-Serve	9/24/2026 9:40:53 AM
Amanda Lloyd Office of the Attorney General 239682	amanda.lloyd@doj.ca.gov	e-Serve	9/24/2026 9:40:53 AM
Office Office Of The State Public Defender-Sac Timothy Foley, Sr. Deputy State Public Defender 000000	docketing@ospd.ca.gov	e-Serve	9/24/2026 9:40:53 AM
California Appellate Project	filing@capsf.org	e-Serve	9/24/2026 9:40:53 AM

This proof of service was automatically created, submitted and signed on my behalf through my agreements with TrueFiling and its contents are true to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

9/24/2026
Date

/s/Kecia Bailey
Signature

Renard, C. Delaine (169893)
Last Name, First Name (PNum)

Office of the State Public Defender

Law Firm