

No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
\_\_\_\_\_

Merlin Alston — PETITIONER  
(Your Name)

VS.

United States of America — RESPONDENT(S)

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

The petitioner asks leave to file the attached petition for a writ of certiorari without prepayment of costs and to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

Please check the appropriate boxes:

☐ Petitioner has previously been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* in the following court(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☒ Petitioner has **not** previously been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* in any other court.

☒ Petitioner's affidavit or declaration in support of this motion is attached hereto.

☐ Petitioner's affidavit or declaration is **not** attached because the court below appointed counsel in the current proceeding, and:

☐ The appointment was made under the following provision of law: \_\_\_\_\_, or

☐ a copy of the order of appointment is appended.



(Signature)

**AFFIDAVIT OR DECLARATION  
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS***

I, Merlin Alston, am the petitioner in the above-entitled case. In support of my motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, I state that because of my poverty I am unable to pay the costs of this case or to give security therefor; and I believe I am entitled to redress.

1. For both you and your spouse estimate the average amount of money received from each of the following sources during the past 12 months. Adjust any amount that was received weekly, biweekly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually to show the monthly rate. Use gross amounts, that is, amounts before any deductions for taxes or otherwise.

Income source	Average monthly amount during the past 12 months		Amount expected next month	
	You	Spouse	You	Spouse
Employment	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Self-employment	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Income from real property (such as rental income)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Interest and dividends	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Gifts	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Alimony	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Child Support	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Retirement (such as social security, pensions, annuities, insurance)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Disability (such as social security, insurance payments)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Unemployment payments	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Public-assistance (such as welfare)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Other (specify): _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
<b>Total monthly income:</b>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>

2. List your employment history for the past two years, most recent first. (Gross monthly pay is before taxes or other deductions.)

Employer	Address	Dates of Employment	Gross monthly pay
N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ N/A
			\$
			\$

3. List your spouse's employment history for the past two years, most recent employer first. (Gross monthly pay is before taxes or other deductions.)

Employer	Address	Dates of Employment	Gross monthly pay
N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ N/A
			\$
			\$

4. How much cash do you and your spouse have? \$ 0  
Below, state any money you or your spouse have in bank accounts or in any other financial institution.

Type of account (e.g., checking or savings)	Amount you have	Amount your spouse has
N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
	\$	\$
	\$	\$

5. List the assets, and their values, which you own or your spouse owns. Do not list clothing and ordinary household furnishings.

☐ Home  
Value N/A

☐ Other real estate  
Value N/A

☐ Motor Vehicle #1  
Year, make & model N/A  
Value \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Motor Vehicle #2  
Year, make & model N/A  
Value \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other assets  
Description N/A  
Value \_\_\_\_\_

6. State every person, business, or organization owing you or your spouse money, and the amount owed.

Person owing you or your spouse money	Amount owed to you	Amount owed to your spouse
<u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>	\$ <u>N/A</u>
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____

7. State the persons who rely on you or your spouse for support. For minor children, list initials instead of names (e.g. "J.S." instead of "John Smith").

Name	Relationship	Age
<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

8. Estimate the average monthly expenses of you and your family. Show separately the amounts paid by your spouse. Adjust any payments that are made weekly, biweekly, quarterly, or annually to show the monthly rate.

Rent or home-mortgage payment  
(include lot rented for mobile home)

Are real estate taxes included? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Is property insurance included? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Utilities (electricity, heating fuel,  
water, sewer, and telephone)

Home maintenance (repairs and upkeep)

Food

Clothing

Laundry and dry-cleaning

Medical and dental expenses

You

Your spouse

\$ 0

\$ 0

\$ 0

\$ 0

\$ 0

\$ 0

\$ 0

\$ 0

\$ 0

\$ 0

\$ 0

\$ 0

	You	Your spouse
Transportation (not including motor vehicle payments)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Recreation, entertainment, newspapers, magazines, etc.	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Insurance (not deducted from wages or included in mortgage payments)		
Homeowner's or renter's	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Life	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Health	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Motor Vehicle	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Other: _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Taxes (not deducted from wages or included in mortgage payments)		
(specify): _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Installment payments		
Motor Vehicle	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Credit card(s)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Department store(s)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Other: _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Alimony, maintenance, and support paid to others	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Regular expenses for operation of business, profession, or farm (attach detailed statement)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Other (specify): _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
<b>Total monthly expenses:</b>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>

9. Do you expect any major changes to your monthly income or expenses or in your assets or liabilities during the next 12 months?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, describe on an attached sheet.

10. Have you paid – or will you be paying – an attorney any money for services in connection with this case, including the completion of this form? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, how much? 0

If yes, state the attorney's name, address, and telephone number:

N/A

11. Have you paid—or will you be paying—anyone other than an attorney (such as a paralegal or a typist) any money for services in connection with this case, including the completion of this form?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, how much? 0

If yes, state the person's name, address, and telephone number:

N/A

12. Provide any other information that will help explain why you cannot pay the costs of this case.

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

Executed on: 12/31, 2018

J. LEVASSER, Jr. CSW  
(Staff Name) (Title)

Authorized by the Act of July 7, 1955,  
(18 U.S.C. 4004).

[Signature]  
(Signature)

IN THE SUPREME COURT  
OF THE UNITED STATES

-----X  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Respondent,*

- v -

MERLIN ALSTON,

*Petitioner.*  
-----X

**AFFIRMATION**  
**DOCK # 18-**\_\_\_\_\_

ROGER BENNET ADLER, being an attorney-at-law duly licensed to practice law in the Courts of New York, and a member of the bar of this Court, makes the following allegations under the penalty of perjury:

1. Your Affirmant is appellate counsel for the Petitioner MERLIN ALSTON, a federally incarcerated inmate being held under the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (B.O.P.), and as such am familiar with the facts and circumstances surrounding this case.

2. This Affirmation is respectfully submitted in support of Petitioner MERLIN ALSTON's annexed application, pursuant to Rule 39, to proceed *in forma pauperis* to the extent of (a) seeking a waiver of the Court's filing fee, and (b) allowing the Petition for a writ of certiorari to be considered based on a typed and lesser number of Petitions (ten).

**BACKGROUND**

3. Petitioner MERLIN ALSTON was, I note, indicted and subsequently convicted following a jury trial in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (McMahon, J.) of (a) conspiracy to possess and

distribute controlled substances, and (b) possessing a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 924(c), and was sentenced to consecutive terms of fifteen (15) years imprisonment under the conspiracy count, and five (5) years under the firearms count. He was, and is, under the custody of the B.O.P. at Milan Federal Penitentiary, serving the sentence which is the subject matter of this Petition.

#### **INITIAL APPEAL**

4. Petitioner timely appealed his conviction to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The Court of Appeals, on August 9, 2018, affirmed the judgment of conviction, in an opinion by Circuit Judge Susan Carney. A copy of the Court's opinion, which is officially reported at 899 F. 3d 138 [2<sup>nd</sup> Cir. 2018], is found at Appendix A. A timely motion for rehearing *en banc* was filed, and denied (Appendix B).

#### **THIS APPLICATION**

5. Your Affirmant respectfully moves, pursuant to Rule 39 of the Rules of this Court, for leave to file a Petition for a writ of certiorari *in forma pauperis*, and to waive the Court's docketing fee.

6. Petitioner is currently incarcerated at the Milan Federal Penitentiary, under the custody and control of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (B.O.P.). He is currently solely serving the 20 year term of imprisonment which is the subject matter of this Petition. Petitioner, Deponent notes, was incarcerated throughout the duration of his trial in the Manhattan Federal Court.

7. Petitioner is, accordingly, both unemployed, and does not generate or receive any real income, other than earnings paid at B.O.P. scale.

8. Your Affirmant is privately retained by Petitioner's mother, who is paying Affirmant an exceedingly modest legal fee. If Petitioner were obliged to pay the Court's docketing fee and print the Petition, he would not be able to seek to petition this court.

9. No prior application has been made either to petition this Court, or to proceed *in forma pauperis* except back in December, 2018, in a format which did not conform to Rule 39. The Government will not be prejudiced if this application is granted.

WHEREFORE, Your Affirmant respectfully prays that Petitioner's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* be granted.

Dated: New York, New York  
January 15, 2019

  
Roger Bennet Adler