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19-6324

No. ___-____

ORIGINAL

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Taeng Yang,

Petitioner.

Vs.

Michael Mcneill, Seth Wilson, City of St. Paul, MN, St. Paul Police Department,

Respondent.

On Petition For Writ Of Certiorari
To The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

Taeng Yang
PRO SE LITIGANT
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PETITIONER

QUESTION PRESENTED

1. **"Whether Yang's § 1983 claims begins to accrue on the date his conviction was "vacated and overturned" in light of *Heck v. Humphrey*, 512 U.S. 477, 486-87 (1994); *Wallace v. Kato*, 549 U.S. 384,388 (2007) and *Buckley v. Ray*, F.3d 855, 867 (8th Cir. 2017)?"**

2. **"Whether the district court erred in denying Plaintiff's motion and/or leave to amend the complaint when Yang was still within the statute of limitation period in light of *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S 519 (1972)?"**

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CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS

The Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States provides, in relevant part:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons to things to be seized.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, in relevant part:

Section I. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the States wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

TITLE 42 USCS § 1983 provides in part;

§ 1983. Civil action for deprivation of rights.

Every person who under the color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or territory or the District of Columbia, subject, or causes to be subjected, any Citizen of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and Laws, shall be liable to be party injured in an action at law. Suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress.

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OPINIONS BELOW

The judgment of the court of Appeals (Pet. App. A) .The opinions of the district court (Pet. App. B). The findings and recommendation of the magistrate judge (Pet. App. C). The opinion of the Minnesota Court of Appeals (Pet. App. D). The decision of the Ramsey County Court (Pet. App. E).

STATEMET OF JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Minnesota Court of Appeals vacating petitioner's conviction was entered on June 18, 2012 (Pet. App. D). The district court of Minnesota entered its order and judgment on November 2, 2017 (Pet. App. B).The judgment of the court of appeals was entered on February 7, 2019 (Pet. App. A). A petition for

rehearing was denied on July 19, 2019 (Pet. App. F). This Court's jurisdiction in invoked under 28 U.S.C. **§ 1254(1).**

RELEVANT CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS

The Fourth Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment **are set forth at Petitioner Appendix.**

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STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Plaintiff was arrested on November 7th, 2010, was due for trial in 2011, was subsequently found guilty as charged and was sentenced on March 7th, 2011 to serve 60 months in prison. Subsequently, in 2011, Plaintiff appealed his conviction to the Minnesota Court of Appeals, claiming that his conviction was unconstitutional and unlawful, and that he was being held in prison as a result of malicious prosecution depriving him of his right to fair trial in violation of his state and federal constitutional rights. On June 18th, 2012, the Judges in the Minnesota Court of Appeals agreed with Plaintiff Yang and the conviction was overturned, the conviction was vacated and set aside. Yang was released from custody on July 27th, 2012. On August 4th, 2015, Yang commenced a civil suit in regards to his arrest, conviction and sentence imprisonment in the State Court (See Pet. Appendix E) and the state court dismissed the case. (See Pet. Appendix E). On March 28th, 2017 Plaintiff (Yang) commenced his § 1983 action and the suit/action were denied based on the 6-year statute of limitation.(See Pet. App. G).

Taeng Yang initiated this action in the Federal district court of Minnesota on March 28th, 2017 alleging two (2) counts of constitutional violations, and several accounts under state common law. Yang sought relief pursuant to 42 USC § 1983. Yang alleged the following unconstitutional conducts by Defendants, in their individual and official capacities deprived him of various rights under the United States and Minnesota Constitution:

1. Unreasonable Search and Seizure in violation of the Fourth Amendment against the Defendants.
2. False arrest, unconstitutional or false imprisonment in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment against Defendant.
3. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress against Defendants.
4. Malicious Prosecution by Defendants.
5. Punitive Damages against Defendants.
6. Attorney's Fees against Defendants.

Appellees, the City Defendants moved for a motion to dismiss. Taeng Yang moved for a motion and/or leave to amend his original complaint (See Pet. App. I & H). The district court in adopting the magistrate judge report and recommendation denied Yang's motion and/or leave to amend the complaint, granted all Appellees dispositive motions based solely on the 6-year statute of limitations defense under Rule 12(b)(6). Yang motioned for reconsideration but the district court denied the motion. Yang appeals the judgment and order of the district court with regards to his claims based on the statute of limitation issues presented for review, arguing in relevant part that the district court erred in dismissing his § 1983 claims under the Minnesota 6-year statute of limitation.

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REASON FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

In ensuing years, federal courts have severely restricted equitable tolling in § 1983 cases, on finding that tolling in "unusual" cases with potentially unjust results in the immediate months after *Wallace.* See *Kuchasrski,* 526 F. Supp. 2d at 775. See also *Kennedy* 2008 U.S. Dist. Lexis 17301, 2008 WL 650341 at *8 (declining to "unilaterally punish [plaintiff] for circumstances not of his own making"); *Garza v. Burnett,* 547 Fed. Appx. 908, 909 (10th Cir. 2013) (allowing equitable tolling on similar facts). In *Feltha v. City of Newport,* 2017 U.S. Dist. Lexis 19886, this theory was also adopted by the Sixth Circuit. There can be no question that Yang is relying on this case because of manifest injustice to his claims. The untimeliness of Plaintiff's complaint results from an understandable confusion about the state law as to when the claim accrued. That confusion was created by courts themselves. The delay did not result from Plaintiff failures to diligently pursue his claim. In fact, Plaintiff filed a state action with the state court on August 4th, 2015. (See Pet. Appendix E) less than 6 years after the conviction was reversed and sentence vacated.

Moreover, strict application of *Wallace v. Kato,* 549 U.S. 384,388 (2007) to this case effectively deprives Yang of his cause of action. If Plaintiff had filed the case immediately after his arrest in 2010, Circuits' precedent (i.e. Sixth and Eighth Circuits) would have required dismissal of his case as barred by *Heck v. Humphrey,* 512 U.S. 477, 486-87 (1994). Once the law changed, Plaintiff conviction having been reversed and overturned on June 18th, 2012, Plaintiff would be barred by the

statute of limitation under *Wallace* on the day plaintiff commenced this action in federal court. This is "a result surely not intended." *Wallace,* 127 S. Ct. at 1099 n.4. Rather, this is an "unusual case" that fits neatly within the doctrine of equitable tolling. The Minnesota law tolled the 6-year statute of limitation while plaintiff's conviction was still viable, and filing this case within 6-year of the reversal of the conviction does result in a statute of limitation bar.

A. THE COURT BELOW ERRED IN DISMISSING YANG'S § 1983 CLAIMS AS TIME-BARRED EVEN WHEN PALINTIFF SUIT WAS WITHIN LIMITATION PERIOD.

In this action, the district court and the Court of appeals relied on *Wallace* in dismissing Plaintiff *pro se* complaint. But *Wallace* is inapposite to the substance of Yang's *pro se* § 1983 action on false or wrongful imprisonment, malicious prosecution and intentionally infliction of emotional distress. Arguably, *Wallace* applied only to Yang's "false arrest" claim under the Fourteenth Amendment but not on his false arrest and imprisonment claim under the Fourteenth Amendment. Also, because Yang may have used the wrong legal terminology in his original complain-false arrest and wrongful imprisonment, that should not be the reason for the district court to adversely construe his original complaint as a "false arrest" action, to form the basis for dismissal.

It is a question of federal law in determining when Yang's wrongful imprisonment, malicious prosecution, and intentionally infliction of emotional

distress § 1983 action or claim to run. *Wallace, id* at 384-97 (federal court determine when the statute of limitation begins to run for § 1983 cause of action. In *Heck v. Humphrey,* 512 U.S. 477, 486-87 (1994), this Court unanimously addressed Yang suffered injuries and damages on these claims due to the "favorable-termination requirement." This required showing does tolls the "knotty statute-of-limitation" on his claim. See *Heck, id* at 478-503 (statute of limitation for [malicious prosecution and unconstitutional conviction or imprisonment] does not accrue until the conviction or sentence has been invalidated).

Under the liberally construction standard for *pro se* litigants and *Wallace, ld* at 388 – 396 reasoning that accrual begins when Yang has a "complete and present" cause of action. Yang's claims are not time-barred. Yang could not have brought this civil action on the suffered injuries and damages for malicious prosecution, unconstitutional conviction or imprisonment, intentionally infliction of emotion distress and denial of fair trial claims on March 7th, 2011, which is the accrual date that district court used in dismissing the action. The action would have been dismissed because at that time (March 7th, 2011), Yang could not have known or anticipated or proved that his conviction was reversed or otherwise, show that his sentence has been invalidated. So that reasoning is a clear and manifest error in law and fact of this case.

In addition, Plaintiff argues that the district court clearly erred because *Heck* was a unanimous court holding and the doctrine of "stare decisis" precludes this court from using *Wallace* to dismiss his *pro se* complaint on "wrongful or false or

unconstitutional imprisonment," malicious prosecution, and intentionally infliction of emotional distress" claims where his facts are much substantially similar to *Heck's* holding. This Court has never held that *Wallace* "false arrest" ruling or reasoning under the Fourth Amendment overruled *Heck's* holding on false arrest and unconstitutional imprisonment under the Fourteenth Amendment or malicious prosecution.

It is well established that the statute of limitations applicable to a §1983 action is determined by state law. *Panzica v. Corr. Of Am.* 559 Fed. Appx. 461, 463 (6th Cir. 2014). Here the parties both Plaintiff and the Defendants agreed that Minnesota's six-year period apply to Yang's claims. See MSA §541.05 subd. (1) (9). *Yang v. McNeill,* 2018 WL 324235*4 (D. Minn. 2018). But the determination of the accruing date by the district was when Yang was sentenced in March 7th, 2011 instead of the date when Yang's conviction was vacated in June 18th, 2012 (See Pet. App. D). Several of Yang's claims made collectively and individually against the Law Enforcement or City Defendants' relate to Search and Seizure under the Fourth Amendment that subsequently led to his conviction and wrongful imprisonment in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment committed during his trial in 2011.

Yang brought these claims under §1983 for those violations. The district court never reached the merits of these claims. Rather, if found that the applicable statute of limitations bars Yang from proceeding against the Defendants. Yang then appeals and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed. It is undisputable from

the record and facts of this proceedings that the statute of limitation for Yang to bring a §1983 claim is six year. Minnesota's longest limitations period for personal injury torts is six years. The magistrate judge and the district court judge nonetheless dismissed Yang's claims as time-barred, and the Court of appeals affirmed without any dispositive ruling. Therefore, this Court must look into federal law to determine this accrual date issue. *Wallace v. Kato, id* at 388 (an accrual date for a §1983 cause of action is a question of federal law); *Panzica, id* at 463 (same).

More so, Yang also relied on ***Buckley v. Ray*, F.3d 855, 867 (8th Cir. 2017)** a precedent of the Eighth Circuit in arguing the statute of limitation issue in this case. In *Buckley's* holding-the Eighth ruled that **"the statute of limitation began to run on the date the conviction was vacated."** *Id.* Like in *Buckley's* holding-when the Minnesota court of appeals vacated Yang's conviction due to the Fourth Amendment violation, Yang was within the statute of limitation period, i.e., **June 12th, 2018** when the conviction was vacated to **June 18th, 2018** when the limitation was to run out, but Yang commenced his suit timely by filing with the district court in **March 28th, 2017**. The key question before this Court is **"when does a cause of action under §1983 for [false arrest, wrongful/false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, and unconstitutional conviction brought under the Fourth Amendment that was vacated begin to] accrue?"** *id* at 866. In *Heck*, this Court held that a cause of action for unconstitutional conviction, false imprisonment, or other harms "caused by actions whose unlawfulness would render a conviction or sentenced invalid" does not arise until the underlying conviction has

been "reversed on direct appeal, expunged by executive order, declared invalid by a state tribunal...or called into question by a federal court's issuance of writ of habeas corpus." *Id* at 486-87. At the very best, the Eighth Circuit judgment should be reversed and remanded because the court reliance on the fact that Yang took so long to sued is undermining of the statutory provision of the tolling requirement under state law. The Minnesota law tolled the 6-year statute of limitation while Yang's conviction was still viable, and filing this case within 6-years or reversal of the conviction does result in a statute of limitation bar. This Court created this rule in part, to avoid parallel litigation where a civil verdict and criminal conviction, concerning the same transaction, contradict each other. *Id.* at 484. This Court further clarified it *Heck* holding in *Wallace v. Kato,* 549 U.S. 384 (2007). In *Wallace,* this Court expressly refused to hold that "an action which would impugn an anticipated future conviction cannot be brought until that conviction occurs and is set aside." *Id.* at 393. Rather, the *Heck* rule applies only when there exists a conviction or sentence that has not been invalidated. *Id.* otherwise, the traditional rule holds: a cause of action accrues "when the wrongful act or omission results in damages." *Id.* at 391.

Also, the Sixth Circuit also agreed with this contention that the statute of limitations began to run "when the alleged false imprisonment ended" as announced in *Wallace.* See *Panzica v. Corr. Of Am.,* 559 Fed. Appx. 461 (6th Cir. 2014)(we conclude, consistent with *Wallace,* that the statute of limitations began to run the day his false imprisonment ended). This Court has recognized, however, that the

accrual date for a false imprisonment claim is subject to a "distinctive rule," because a "victim may not be able to sue while he is imprisoned." *Wallace,* 549 U.S. at 389. Acknowledging this, in *Wallace,* this Court held that the statute of limitation "begin to run against an action for false imprisonment when the alleged false imprisonment ended." *Id.* With *Panzica's* court reasoning, the district court clearly erred in dismissing Yang's civil action. Thus reversal by this Court is necessary.

Furthermore, under the reasoning of and in light of *Parish v. City of Elkhart,* 614 F.3d 677, 684 (7th Cir. 2010), where the Seventh Circuit interpreted *Wallace* and found that a claim of "malicious prosecution" is not complete until a conviction occurs and until that conviction has been overturned. Therefore, Yang's statute of limitations for "malicious prosecution" does not begin to accrue until the time at which his conviction was overturned in June 18, 2012. See *Thompson v. Connick,* 553 F.3d 836, 850 (5th Cir. 2008)(Same). Yang's statute of limitation began at the date his conviction was overturned, and the district court failed to address that claim in its memorandum of law and order. Thus, Yang's "malicious prosecution" claim is not time-barred under ***Wallace* or *Heck***. Also, under the reasoning of *Owens v. Balt. City State's Atty. Office,* 767 F.3d 379, 390 4th Cir. 2014)(under *Wallace* interpretation, Yang's false imprisonment claim "begin to run only at the end of a plaintiff's false imprisonment." See *Wallace, Id.* 389. The "statute of limitation begins to run against an action for false imprisonment when the alleged false imprisonment ends." So the Eighth circuit and the district interpretation of *Wallace* is in conflict with the cases cited above and also in conflict with its own

decision in *Buckley v. Ray*, F.3d 855, 867 (8th Cir. 2017). That misapplication is supported by *Smalls v. City of New York,* 181 Supp.3d 178(E.D.N.Y 2016) (Defendant reliance on *Wallace* is misapplied. *Wallace* applied only to false arrest claims; it did not disturb the general rule of *Heck*). To hear a case of wrongful imprisonment and malicious prosecution "during the pendency of appeal risks inconsistent result with the criminal proceedings-a harm easily avoided by tolling the commencement of the limitation period.

As argued, Yang's sentence or conviction was reversed on June 18, 2012, so the statute of limitation for "malicious prosecution" and "wrongful imprisonment" did not begin to run until June 18, 2012. *Wallace* is materially and factually distinguished to Yang's "wrongful or false unconstitutional imprisonment," "malicious prosecution," and "intentionally infliction of emotional distress" claims because *Wallace* addressed **only** "false arrest" claim under the Fourth Amendment. *Wallace, Id* at 387 n.1 ([all] of petitioner's other state and federal claims were resolved ...and are not before us. We expressly limited our grant of certiorari to Fourth Amendment false arrest claim"); *Id* at n.2 ("Assuming without deciding such a [malicious prosecution] claim is cognizable under §1983, petitioner has not made one. Petitioner did not include such claim in his complaint"). So *Wallace* does not apply to these claims.

This Court should also turn to the reasoning and the precedent of the Eighth Circuit in *Buckley v. Ray,* 848 F.3d 855, 867 (8th Cir. 2017) and reverse and remand in light of that decision in regards to Yang's limitation period. The Eighth circuit

court ruled thus in *Buckley* that "the Supreme Court's decision in Wallace controls *Buckley's* claim." In this instance case, the Minnesota appellate court invalidated Yang's conviction and sentence on June 18, 2012. No extant conviction exists for his §1983 claims and no anticipated future conviction, and of such, does not implicate Heck rule. *Buckley Id* at 867 ("the Heck rule applies only when there exist a conviction or sentence that has not been invalidated"). Therefore, construing all reasonable inference in light most favorable to Yang and inferences that may be drawn from evidence and record, the district court misapplied *Wallace* and *Buckley* decisions warranting reversal; *Yang v. Mcneill,* 2018 WL 324235 (D. Minn. 2018). See *Id* at 393. The Fourth Amendment violation by City Defendants that led to his unconstitutional conviction and wrongful imprisonment in violation of the due process clause of the Fourteenth amendment caused him damage when he was convicted and incarcerated in 2011. In the district court's order, the district court judge ruled that Yang should have commenced his suit as soon as his case was "**vacated."** Using the word "vacated," the district court and the Eighth circuit court of appeals should have readily found *Buckley's* decision to be controlling in determining when the action begin to accrued. Instead, the lower courts ruled that Yang's action accrued on the date of his **"sentence,"** which is in direct conflict with ***Buckley's*** findings and conclusion of law by same Eighth Circuit court decision.

Yang also argued that his "false arrest" and "false imprisonment" claim is not based only on the Fourth Amendment, but also on the Fourteenth Amendment ("based on violation of the United States Constitution Amendment Fourteenth").

That argument is supported by the court in *Mondragon v. Thompson,* 519 F.3d 1098 (10th Cir. 2008) (*Gorsuch,* J. concurring), where the Tenth Circuit reasoned and held that a plaintiff who claims that government has unconstitutionally imprisoned has at least two potential constitutional claims. The initial search and seizure is governed by Fourth Amendment, but at some point after arrest, and certainly by the entire trial, constitutional analysis shifts to the Due Process Clause. If he has been imprisoned without legal process he has a claim under the Fourteenth Amendment analogous to a tort claim for false arrest or false imprisonment. If he has been imprisoned pursuant to legal but wrongful process, he has a claim under the Procedural component of Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause analogous to a tort claim for malicious prosecution. *Id.* at 1082. (Internal quotation omitted). In other words, Tenth Circuit "permits due process claims for wrongful imprisonment after the wrongful institution of legal process." *Id.* Thus, Yang argues that his false arrest claim is not barred by the status of limitation, under the Tenth Circuit holding. Because *Mondragon* stands for the proposition that a false arrest and false imprisonment claim can be based on the Fourteenth Amendment and such a claim accrues when the Plaintiff achieves a favorable result in the criminal case, like in Yang's instance case, it was in June 18, 2012 which run until June 18, 2018, and his suit filed in March 28, 2017 was timely under state law 6-year statute of limitation. Plaintiff's §1983 false arrest and false imprisonment claim are not time-barred. This is so because a Fourteenth Amendment false arrest claim is based on the Plaintiff being imprisoned pursuant to legal but wrongful process. Yang's

original and amended complaint alleges that he was imprisoned, the appendixes and state public record show there was a legal process but it was a wrongful process. See *State v. Yang,* 814 N.W.2d 716 (Minn. 2012). Reversal is necessary and Yang should be given a meaningful opportunity to recover under tort law.

B. THE COURT BELOW ALSO ERRED IN DISMISING YANG AMENDED COMPLAINT AS FUTILE BECAUSE OF THE TIME-BARRED

Yang can amend his complaint to add unfair trial claims for the futility issues discussed. See *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S 519 (1972), this court held "courts should be liberal and give generous interpretation of the *pro se* litigants' claims regarding civil actions, and should also give reasonable allowance to pro se litigants." The district court and the Court of appeals erred in not giving Yang a chance to amend his complaint under Eighth Circuit precedent in *Michaelis v. Nebraska,* 717 F.2d 437, 438-39 (8th Cir. 1983). The original and proposed amended complaint alleged the following claims for relief:

False arrest was raised under both Federal and Minnesota Law. The claim involves the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment as well as the respective Minnesota sections Articles in Minnesota Constitution.

False or Wrongful Imprisonment was raised under both Federal and Minnesota Law. The claim involves the Fourteenth Amendment as well as the respective Minnesota Articles in Minnesota Constitution. Yang states in his original

complaint as ("This issue is related to my **Wrongful imprisonment** in 2010 and the conviction was overturned in 2012").

Intentionally Infliction of Emotional Distress was raised under both Federal and Minnesota Law. The claim involves the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment as well as the respective Minnesota sections Articles in Minnesota Constitution.

Yang also wanted to include a Malicious Prosecution, Denial of Fair Trial claim under both federal and Minnesota Law. These claims involve the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment was well as respective Minnesota sections Articles in Minnesota Constitution. Yang also wanted to add a *Monell* claim against the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County and other Defendants as a Municipality as well.

Therefore, allowing the Plaintiff the opportunity to (a) amend his original complaint or amended complaint in light of *Charis v. Chappius,* 618 F.3d 162, 170-71 (2nd Cir. 2010) (court liberally construed *pro se* complaint and granted leave to amend to afford plaintiff "extra leeway in meeting the procedural rules governing litigation"), (b) to cure or clear this misunderstanding by deleting the "false arrest" claim under the Fourth Amendment in light of *Andrale v. Gonzales,* 459 F.3d 538, 543 (5th Cir. 2006) (court liberally construed *pro se* pleading as challenge to length of detention); *Earl v. Fabian,* 556 F.3d 717, 723 (8th Cir. 2009) (court liberally construed *pro se* petition on the issue of equitable tolling; (c) to properly add his constitutional imprisonment. Malicious prosecution, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and denial of fair trial claims in light of the case being

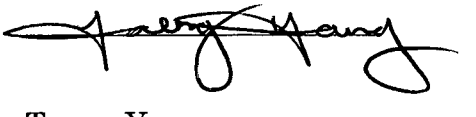
overturned is clear and manifest error in controlling law and fact of Yang's case. This also addresses any futility concerns or issues raised by the district court and court of appeal. Plaintiff sole intention was a civil action for damages caused by "unconstitutional imprisonment. Not affording him the opportunity to amend his *pro se* complaint to "clear this misunderstanding" due to his *pro se* status is manifest error in law and fact. The underline purpose of this suit was undermined by both the district court and the Eighth Circuit court of Appeals and such will require the review of this Court to spell out the dispute of statute of limitation when a conviction has been vacated and/or set aside.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, for the forgoing reasons, Yang prays this court to grant the writ of certiorari and reverse and remand for further in light of *Buckley v. Ray,* 848 F.3d 855, 867 (8th Cir. 2017).

Dated: 10/3/19

Respectful Submitted:



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