

No. 20-5445

ORIGINAL

Supreme Court, U.S.  
FILED

AUG 11 2020

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

JELANI WALKER — PETITIONER  
(Your Name)

vs.

ED SHELDON, WARDEN, — RESPONDENT(S)

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT  
(NAME OF COURT THAT LAST RULED ON MERITS OF YOUR CASE)

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

JELANI WALKER # 729-780  
(Your Name) Pro-Se

Mansfield Correctional Institution P.O. BOX 788  
(Address)

Mansfield, Ohio 44901  
(City, State, Zip Code)

N/A  
(Phone Number)

## QUESTION(S) PRESENTED

### QUESTION 1

~~Does a superseding indictment's charge that changes the original charges~~  
defense cause prejudice, due to inadequate notice? If so, is it bad faith for  
a conscious prosecutor to seek this outcome?

### QUESTION 2

Does a Federal Court's default apply, where the State Court had the  
opportunity, but instead ruled on the merits without any action?

## LIST OF PARTIES

☒ All parties appear in the caption of the case on the cover page.

☐ All parties **do not** appear in the caption of the case on the cover page. A list of ~~all parties to the proceeding in the court whose judgment is the subject of this~~ petition is as follows:

## RELATED CASES

Walker v. Sheldon, No. 19-4275, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Judgment entered June 02, 2020

Walker v. Warden, No. 2:19-cv-01740, District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Judgment entered Nov. 15, 2019

Walker v. Warden, No. 2:19-cv-01740, District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Judgment entered Oct. 28, 2019

State v. Walker, No. 2018-0801, Ohio Supreme Court. Judgment entered Sep. 26 2018

State v. Walker, No. 2017-1804, Ohio Supreme Court. Judgment entered April, 25 2018

State v. Walker, No. 16CA26, Court of Appeals of Ohio Fourth District. Judgment entered April 27, 2018

State v. Walker, No. 16CA26, Court of Appeals of Ohio Fourth District. Judgment entered April 25, 2017

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

OPINIONS BELOW . . . . . 1

JURISDICTION . . . . .

---

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISION INVOLVED . . . . .

STATEMENT OF THE CASE . . . . . 4

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT . . . . . 8

CONCLUSION . . . . . 22

## INDEX TO APPENDICES

APPENDIX A 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Appeals Court  
Application for COA Decision

APPENDIX K Motion to Amend

APPENDIX B U.S. Dist. Court Decision,  
Magistrate's Report + Recommendation

APPENDIX L Objection to Motion to  
Amend

APPENDIX C 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Appeals Court  
26 (B) Application for Reopening Decision

APPENDIX M 26 (B) Application for  
Reopening Responds

APPENDIX D 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Direct Appeal  
Decision

APPENDIX N Motion to Dismiss  
Indictment

APPENDIX E Motion to Amend  
Decision

APPENDIX O Original Indictment

APPENDIX F Motion to Dismiss  
Indictment Decision

APPENDIX P Superseding Indictment  
(un-signed)

APPENDIX G 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Appeals Court  
Application for COA

APPENDIX Q Superseding Indictment  
(signed)

APPENDIX H Amended 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. COA  
Application

APPENDIX R Second Superseding  
Indictment

APPENDIX I U.S. Dist. Court Habeas  
Corpus Petition, Memorandum

APPENDIX S Trial Court Docket

APPENDIX J 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Appeals Court  
26 (B) Application for Reopening

APPENDIX T Arraignment Transcript

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES CITED

### CASES

United States v. Taniguchi, 49 Fed. Appx. 506, 520 (6 <sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002)	pg. 9
United States v. Mohncey, 949 F.2d 899, 903-904 (6 <sup>th</sup> Cir. 1991)	pg. 9
Russell v. United States, 369 U.S. 749, 763-770 82 S. Ct. 1038, 8 L. Ed. 2d 240 (1962)	pg. 9, 16
United States v. Salmonese, 352 F.3d 608, 622 (2 <sup>d</sup> Cir. 2003)	pg. 10
U.S. v. Zvi, 168 F.3d 49, 55 (2 <sup>d</sup> Cir. 1999)	pg. 10, 16, 17
Rojas-Contreras, 474 U.S. 231, 237 (1985)	pg. 10, 16, 20
United States v. Hassan, 578 F.3d 108, 133 (1 <sup>st</sup> Cir. 2009)	pg. 11, 17
United States v. Morena, 547 F.3d 191, 194 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Cir. 2008)	pg. 11
United States v. Prince 214 F.3d 740, 757 (6 <sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000)	pg. 11
United States v. Manning, 142 F.3d 336, 339 (6 <sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998)	pg. 11
Harrington v. Richter, 562 U.S. 86, 102 (2011)	pg. 12
Harris v. Reed, 489 U.S. 255, 263 (1989)	pg. 13, 19
Caldwell v. Mississippi, 472 U.S. 320, 327 (1985)	pg. 13
Mich. v. Long, 463 U.S. 1032, 1041 (1983)	pg. 13, 19
Maupin v. Smith, 785 F.2d 135, 138 (6 <sup>th</sup> Cir. 1986)	pg. 14
Scuba v. Brigano, 259 F. Appx 713, 718 (6 <sup>th</sup> Cir. 2007)	pg. 14
Ross v. Parker, 304 Fed. Appx. 655, 660 (10 <sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008)	pg. 14
Bigelow v. Haviland, 576 F.3d 284, 287 (6 <sup>th</sup> Cir. 2009)	pg. 14
Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 689 (1984)	pg. 14
Smith v. Robins, 528 U.S. 259, 285, 120 S. Ct. 746, 145 L. Ed. 2d 756 (2002)	pg. 14-15
Burger v. Kemp, 483 U.S. 776, 107 S. Ct. 3114, 97 L. Ed. 2d 638 (1987)	pg. 15
Jones v. Barnes, 463 U.S. 745, 751-752, 103 S. Ct. 3308, 77 L. Ed. 2d 987 (1983)	pg. 15
Edwards v. Carpenter, 529 U.S. 446, 453 (2000)	pg. 15
Stirone v. United States, 361 U.S. 212, 217 (1960)	pg. 16

United States v. Grady, 544 F.2d 598, 602-603 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Cir. 1976)	pg. 16
United States v. Perry, 226 N.E. 2d 104, 108 (Ohio 1967)	pg. 18
Scoggin v. Kaiser, 186 F.3d 1203, 1206 (10 <sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999)	pg. 18
United States v. McCord, 509 F.2d 334, 350 (DC. Cir. 1974)	pg. 22

---

## STATUTES AND RULES

R.C. 2925.03 (A)(1)	pg. 4, 5, 8, 9
R.C. 2925.03 (A)(2)	pg. 4, 5, 9
R.C. 2925.11 (A)	pg. 4, 8, 9, 10
2254(d)	pg. 12

## OTHER

6 <sup>th</sup> Cir. Appeals Court Application for COA Decision	pg. 6, 12, 16, 18
4 <sup>th</sup> Dist. Appeals Court 26 (B) Application for Reopening Decision	pg. 6, 8, 13, 20
4 <sup>th</sup> Dist. Direct Appeal Decision	pg. 5, 12
Motion to Amend Decision	pg. 4, 9

Motion to Dismiss Indictment	pg. 6
6 <sup>th</sup> Cir. Appeals Court Application for COA	pg. 6
Amended 6 <sup>th</sup> Cir. COA Application	pg. 6
U.S. Dist. Court Habeas Corpus Petition, Memorandum	pg. 4, 8, 22
<hr/>	
4 <sup>th</sup> Dist. Appeals Court 26(B) Application for Reopening	pg. 6
Motion to Amend	pg. 9
Objection to Motion to Amend	pg. 4
26(B) Application to Reopening Responds	pg. 20
Motion to Dismiss Indictment	pg. 5
Original Indictment	pg. 4, 8
Superseding Indictment (un-signed)	pg. 4
Superseding Indictment (signed)	pg. 4, 8
Second Superseding Indictment	pg. 4, 10
Trial Court Docket	pg. 5
Arraignment Transcript	pg. 4



IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Petitioner respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment below. \_\_\_\_\_

**OPINIONS BELOW**

☒ For cases from **federal courts**:

The opinion of the United States court of appeals appears at Appendix A to the petition and is

☒ reported at 2020 U.S. App. LEXIS 17400; or,  
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,  
☐ is unpublished.

The opinion of the United States district court appears at Appendix B to the petition and is

☒ reported at 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 198198; or,  
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,  
☐ is unpublished.

☐ For cases from **state courts**: N/A

The opinion of the highest state court to review the merits appears at Appendix \_\_\_\_\_ to the petition and is

☐ reported at \_\_\_\_\_; or,  
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,  
☐ is unpublished.

The opinion of the \_\_\_\_\_ court appears at Appendix \_\_\_\_\_ to the petition and is

☐ reported at \_\_\_\_\_; or,  
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,  
☐ is unpublished.

## JURISDICTION

☒ For cases from **federal courts**:

The date on which the United States Court of Appeals decided my case was 06/02/2020.

☒ No petition for rehearing was timely filed in my case.

N/A

☐ A timely petition for rehearing was denied by the United States Court of Appeals on the following date: \_\_\_\_\_, and a copy of the order denying rehearing appears at Appendix \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ An extension of time to file the petition for a writ of certiorari was granted to and including \_\_\_\_\_ (date) on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) in Application No. A \_\_\_\_\_.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. § 1254(1).

☐ For cases from **state courts**:

N/A

The date on which the highest state court decided my case was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A copy of that decision appears at Appendix \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ A timely petition for rehearing was thereafter denied on the following date: \_\_\_\_\_, and a copy of the order denying rehearing appears at Appendix \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ An extension of time to file the petition for a writ of certiorari was granted to and including \_\_\_\_\_ (date) on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) in Application No. A \_\_\_\_\_.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. § 1257(a).

## CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

AMENDMENT V Due Process of Law

AMENDMENT VI To be informed of the Nature and Cause of the accusation

---

AMENDMENT XIV Due Process of Law

28 USCS § 2254 (d) An application for a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court shall not be granted with respect to any claim that was adjudicated on the merits in State court proceedings unless the adjudication of the claim —

(1) resulted in a decision that was contrary to, or involved an unreasonable application of, clearly established Federal law, as determined by the Supreme Court of the United States; or

(2) resulted in a decision that was based on an unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence presented in the State court proceeding.

## STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 03/28/2016 petitioner was charged with a three count indictment. Count 1. Trafficking in Heroin R.C. 2925.03 (A)(1) F1, Count 2. Possession of Heroin R.C. 2925.11 (A) F1, and Count 3. Possession of Cocaine R.C. 2925.11 (A) F5 (Appendix O).

After scientific testing revealing that no Heroin was involved, it was "Staged" that a 2 count superseding indictment was obtained (see Appendix I pg.22-24, Appendix T pg.1, also Appendix P, and Q) charging petitioner with Aggravated Trafficking in Drug R.C. 2925.03 (A)(1) F2, as Count 1, and Possession of Cocaine R.C. 2925.11 (A) F5, as Count 2, on 06/06/2016. On 06/07/2016 the State moved to amend subsection (A)(1) of Count 1. to (A)(2) (Appendix K). Counsel opposed, expressing his concerns of the State's continuous altering theories on 06/09/2016 (Appendix L), and the court OVERRULED the State's proposal on 06/10/2016 (Appendix E).

A second superseding indictment was filed on 06/13/2016, charging petitioner with 3 counts, Count 1. Aggravated Trafficking in Drug R.C. 2925.03 (A)(2) F2, Count 2. Aggravated Possession of Drug R.C. 2925.11 (A) F2, Count 3. Possession of Cocaine R.C. 2925.11 (A) F5 (Appendix R).

On 06/14/2016 a Motion to Dismiss Indictment was filed by counsel, where counsel expressed his burden due to the changes of charges via both superseding indictments (Appendix N). The State did not oppose, and the Motion to Dismiss Indictment was DENIED on 06/14/2016. (Appendix F). The court also ordered a Sua Sponta Continuance the same day.

The case proceeded to a two day trial, and petitioner was found guilty of Count 1 and Count 2, but acquitted of Count 3. (Note that no Nolle Prosequi was ever entered to any of the previous indictments or charges, these indictments are still pending, see Trial Court Docket Appendix S).

At sentencing, Count 2 was merged into Count 1, and petitioner was sentenced to 5 mandatory years for Aggravated Trafficking in Drug R.C. 2925.03(A)(2)F2.

Direct Appeal was had, where appellate counsel raised Manifest Weight of Evidence, Insufficient Evidence, and Ineffective Assistance of Counsel (as to failure of trial counsel to request waiver of fines) as errors (Appendix D). The 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. affirmed on 04/25/2017. A timely filing for jurisdictional acceptance to the Ohio Supreme Court was submitted on 12/22/2017, and DENIED on 04/25/2018. Shortly after, a timely 26(b) Application for Reopening was filed on.

02 /05 /20 , where petitioner first registered his claims that are now before this Court (Appedix J ). The Application for Reopening was DENIED on 04 /27 /2018 (Appendix C ). A timely filing for jurisdictional acceptance to the Ohio Supreme Court followed on 06 /11 /2018, and was DENIED on 09 /26 /2018 .

---

Subsequently, a timely Habeas Corpus Petition 2254 was filed to the Southern District Federal Court on 04 /27 /2019 (Appendix I ), and was DENIED on 11 /15 /2019 , after an Answer by Respondent, a Traverse by petitioner, a Report and Recommendation by the Magistrate, and an Objection by petitioner ( Appendix B ). Petitioner filed a timely Notice of Appeal, along with an Application for COA to the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Appeals Court via Southern District Federal Court on 12 /13 /2020 ( Appendix G ). This COA Application was never transfured to the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Appeals Court. Subsequently, petitioner filed an Amended Application for COA (Appendix H) directly to the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. on 01 /13 /2020. An ORDER came down from the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Court Clerk, demanding that petitioner show proof that Notice of Appeal was filed timely. Petitioner provided adequate proof and the order was lifted on 02 /26 /2020. Petitioner's Amended Application for COA was DENIED on 06 /02 /2020 ( Appendix A ).

Now before this Honorable Court is petitioner's timely  
filed request to proceed In Forma Pauperis and Petition for Writ of  
Certiorari submitted on     /     /2020.

---

## REASON FOR GRANTING THE PETITION (A-F)

### A. QUESTION (1)

---

Does a superseding indictment's charge that changes the original charge's defense cause prejudice, due to inadequate notice? If so, is it bad faith for a conscious prosecutor to seek this outcome?

This question stems from a vague 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Application for COA Decision (Appendix A), which mirrors the 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. 26(b) Application for Reopening Decision (Appendix C), where the Court held that petitioner's Prosecutorial Misconduct claim was meritless because the subsequent charges were obtained via superseding indictment and not through court amendment.

Petitioner was originally indicted on a three count indictment, Count 1. Trafficking in Heroin R.C. 2925.03 (A)(1) F1, Count 2. Possession of Heroin R.C. 2925.11 (A) F1, Count 3. Possession of Cocaine R.C. 2925.11 (A) F5 (Appendix O). After scientific testing, revealing that no Heroin was involved, but instead Pentylone, it was "Staged" that a two count indictment was obtained (see Appendix I pg. 22-24, Appendix T pg. 1, also Appendix P, and Q) charging petitioner with Aggravated Trafficking in Drug R.C. 2925.03 (A)(1) F2 as Count 1., and Possession of Cocaine R.C. 2925.11 (A) F5 as Count 2. Here, a substantial amendment has occurred. The former Heroin charges are



now Aggravated Pentylone charges. Heroin and Pentylone require two distinguishably different evidence defenses. The original indictment gives no notice to Pentylone charges, and petitioner's defense to Heroin charges has been destroyed. ("Proper notice is given where the defendant is fairly informed of the charge against which he must defend, and where the indictment" enables him to plead acquittal or conviction in bar of future prosecutions for the same offense.") United States v. Taniguchi, 49 Fed. Appx. 506, 520 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002) citing United States v. Mohny, 949 F.2d 899, 903-904 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1991); (an indictment returned by a grand jury preserves three constitutional rights held by the accused: (1) the right to fair notice of the charges, (2) the protection against double jeopardy, and (3) the right to have grand jury find probable cause for felony charges.") Russell v. United States, 369 U.S. 749, 763-770 82 S. Ct. 1038, 8 L. Ed. 2d 240 (1962).

After this superseding indictment, and the State realizing its amended charges still will not support a favorable prosecution, the State moved for a Motion to Amend (Appendix K) the (A)(1) subsection of Count 1 to (A)(2). Following an OVERRULED motion (where the court made the State aware of the error in such a proposal) (Appendix E) a second superseding indictment was obtained charging petitioner with three counts, Count 1. Aggravated Trafficking in Drug R.C. 2925.03 (A)(2) F2, Count 2. Aggravated Possession of Drug R.C. 2925.11

(A) F2, Count 3. Possession of Cocaine R.C. 2925.11(A) F5. (Appendix R)

Here, the (A)(1) subsection of Count 1 has been amended to (A)(2) via superseding indictment. A trafficking charge under an (A)(1) subsection charges that a "sell or offer to sell" a controlled substance has occurred, while only proof that one "had knowledge that a controlled substance was intended to sell" is sufficient to convict under (A)(2). Count 1 of the previous indictment, and the original indictment are of (A)(1) subsections, and only give notice to a "sell or offer to sell" Pentylone. A superseding indictment that changes the subsection to (A)(2) prejudices petitioner's defense, and for the second time, deprives petitioner of adequate notice by broaden the original charges, which gives birth to charges that do not relate back to the original offenses. *United States v. Salmonese*, 352 F.3d 608, 622 (2<sup>d</sup> Cir. 2003) (discussing broadening) see also *U.S. v. Zvi*, 168 F.3d 49, 55 (2<sup>d</sup> Cir. 1999) (where money laundering counts of superseding indictment prejudicial and dismissed because defendant had no notice of new charges not in original indictment).

Also, in *Rojas-Contreras*, as to prejudice, this Court held that on the particular fact that only the time frame ("on or about December 17, 1981" to "on or about December 7, 1981") was amended via superseding indictment, and the original charges were unchanged, no prejudice resulted. *United States v. Rojas-Contreras*, 474 U.S. 231, 237 (1985), to the contrary, in the instant case the original charging terms were altered to

the prejudice of petitioner. ("An unconstitutional amendment of the indictment occurs when the charging terms are altered, either literally or constructively.") *United States v. Hassan*, 578 F.3d 108, 133 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir 2009).

Also, for the State to seek superseding indictments that it knows would alter the original charges to the prejudice of petitioner is an act of bad faith and Prosecutorial Misconduct. ("Improper prosecutorial misconduct rise to the level of constitutional error when the impact of the misconduct is to distract the trier of fact and thus raise doubts as to the fairness of the trial.") *United States v. Morena*, 547 F.3d 191, 194. (Note that petitioner's first two indictments are still pending)

At the end of the day, petitioner has demonstrated prejudice to his original defense due to the changes of charges via both superseding indictments, which violated petitioner's 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment Due Process rights, and petitioner's 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment right to the Nature and Cause of the accusation. If petitioner would have proceed to trial on the original indictment, with the obtained lab evidence that the substance was not Heroin, and no evidence ever put forth of a "sell or offer to sell," petitioner would have won his case. ("A substantial right is affected only when the defendant establishes prejudice in his ability to defend himself or to the overall fairness of the trial.") *United States v. Prince*, 214 F.3d 740, 757 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000) quoting *United States v. Manning*, 142 F.3d 336, 339 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998).

Further, petitioner's COA APPLICATION was adjudicated and

DENIED by the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Appeals Court without any determination of if the prior decisions were inconsistent with a holding of this Court. ("Under § 2254 (d), a habeas court must determine what arguments or theories supported or could have supported the state court's decision and then it ~~must ask whether it is possible fairminded jurist could disagree that those~~ arguments or theories are inconsistent with the holding in a prior decision of [the Supreme Court].") Harrington v. Richter, 562 U.S. 86, 102 (2011).

Though the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit's COA decision holds that petitioner has failed to make a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right, the Court does not cite any U.S. Supreme Court authority to support its holding (Appendix A). The 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. COA Application Decision, as to showing the denial of a substantial constitutional right, was erroneous.

#### B. QUESTION (2)

Does a Federal Court's default apply, where the State Court had the opportunity, but instead ruled on the merits without any action?

This question spawned from the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Application for COA Decision, where the Court held that petitioner is procedurally defaulted by Ohio's res judicata procedural rule, due to failure to raise Prosecutorial Misconduct as a direct appeal claim.

State record will reveal (Appendix D) that Prosecutorial Misconduct was not raised by counsel in petitioner's direct appeal.

State record will also reveal that petitioner first registered this claim via 26(b) Application to Reopen, where petitioner claimed appellate counsel was ineffective for not raising Prosecutorial Misconduct in direct appeal. Lastly, but most important to petitioner's second question before this Honorable Court, state record (Appendix C) will reveal that in the 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Application for Reopening Decision, the Court ruled on the Ineffective Assistance of Counsel merits without mention of any procedural default or sanction.

Here, as to a res judicata barring, due to failure to raise the Prosecutorial Misconduct claim on direct appeal, the 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. had open opportunity to sanction petitioner, but made no plain or indirect statement to a default at all. One can only assume the 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. saw no default applicable. This assumption is strengthened by the fact that the prosecutor proposed this res judicata barring and the Court ignored the State. Regardless of the State's contention, no "plain statement" was made. ("a procedural default does not bar consideration of a federal claim on either direct or habeas review unless the last state court rendering a judgment in the case "clearly and expressly" states that its judgment rest on state procedural bar.") Harris v. Reed, 489 U.S. 255, 263 ( 1989 ) citing Caldwell v. Mississippi, 472 U.S. 320, 327 ( 1985 ), quoting Mich. v. Long, 463 U.S. 1032, 1041 ( 1983 ). Also, according to the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit's Maupin Test, prong two of the four-

part test is not satisfied. *Maupin v. Smith*, 785 F.2d 135, 138 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1986); see *Scuba v. Brigano* 259 F. App'x 713, 718 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2007) (following the four-part analysis of *Maupin*); see also *Ross v. Parker*, 304 Fed. Appx. 655, 660 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008) (enforcing "plain statement" rule).

---

In the case at bar, the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. COA Application Decision ruling that reasonable jurist could not debate the district court's conclusion that petitioner's claim was procedurally defaulted was clearly erroneous.

### C. INEFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL

Petitioner's appellate counsel was ineffective by failing to raise Prosecutorial Misconduct and demonstrate a violation of Due Process and denial of a fair trial, due to improper amendments caused by superseding indictment charges, which were sought in bad faith by the State. The trial court record supports these claims to an extent that counsel could have presented a prima facie case of prejudice, which would have resulted in a successful appeal. Instead, counsel ignored these claims and chose to raise weaker claims that were subject to a weighing of evidence and determination of the sufficiency of evidence. Failure to raise Prosecutorial Misconduct prejudiced the appeal. *Bigelow v. Haviland*, 576 F.3d 284, 287 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2009) (quoting *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 689).

The strictland test applies to appellate counsel. *Smith v. Robins*, 528

U.S. 259, 285, 120 S. Ct. 746, 145 L. Ed. 2d 756 (2000); Burger v. Kemp, 483 U.S. 776, 107 S. Ct. 3114, 97 L. Ed. 2d 638 (1987).  
... Counsel's failure to raise an issue on appeal amount to ineffective assistance only if a reasonable probability exist that inclusion of the issue would have changed the results of the appeal. Id.; ("Experienced advocates since time beyond memory have emphasized the importance of winnowing out weaker arguments on appeal and focusing on one central issue if possible, or at most on a few key issues.") Jones v. Barnes, 463 U.S. 745, 751-752, 103 S. Ct. 3308, 77 L. Ed. 2d 987 (1983).

---

Even if a procedural default was applicable in the instant case, petitioner would be excused by his showing of "cause" via ineffective assistance of counsel, and "prejudice" which is demonstrated supra and consistent with *Edwards v. Carpenter*, 529 U.S. 446, 453 (2000).

#### D. CIRCUIT COURT CONFLICTS

Petitioner will now show a conflict between the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. COA Decision and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cir. Appeals Court decision, addressing changes of original charges via superseding indictment.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. COA Decision, addressing the mentioned issue, and Ineffective Assistance of Counsel, the Court reiterated the 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. State Court Appeals opinion holding that: "the new charges were obtained by superseding indictments after presentment to a grand jury, which did not offend any state or federal constitutional provisions," and that: "the Ohio Court of Appeals rejected his ineffective assistance claim because counsel could not be ineffective for failing to raise a

meritless claim (Appendix A ). The 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Court also rejected two of petitioner's case Citings asserting that: " these cases generally pertains to impermissible constructive amendments to an indictment, not a new superseding indictments obtained through a grand jury." ( though petitioner ~~also cited a superseding indictment case from this Court~~ U.S. v. Rojas-Contreras, 474 at - 237, along with Russell v. United States, 369 at - 763 and Stirone v. U.S., 361 at - 217 ) ( indicating trivial and innocuous amendments acceptable). Regardless, the 2<sup>d</sup> Circuit's Grady case, cited below, relied on cases dealing with variances between indictments issued by a grand jury and later amendments of indictments permitted by trial courts to assess whether a superseding indictment impermissibly charged the original charges. United States v. Grady, 544 F.2d 598, 602-603 (1976). The Grady Court held that: " the superseding and superseded indictments were in all respects substantially the same, and the defendants were placed fully upon notice of the crimes with which they were charged in the superseding indictment by virtue of the superseded indictment", while in petitioner's case, the original indictment's charges gave no notice to the superseding indictment's charges.

In U.S. v. Zvi, 168 F.3d 49, 55 (2<sup>d</sup> Cir. 1999), 14 of the Zvi's money laundering charges, which were obtained via superseding indictment after grand jury concurrence, were held to have prejudiced



the Zvi because notice to money laundering was not afforded via original indictment's charges. These money laundering charges were DISMISSED.

Though these 2<sup>d</sup> Cir. cases were of statute of limitations concerns, ~~the question due to a positive or negative ruling was exactly~~ the same as petitioner's, which is, Did the original indictment's charges give notice to the superseding indictment's charges? ("The issue then is whether the original indictment failed to provide the defendant with timely notice of the charge that were later added by the superseding indictment.") Zvi, 168 F.3d - at 55. Petitioner's original charging terms were altered to the prejudice of petitioner via superseding indictment. ("An unconstitutional amendment occurs when the charging terms are altered, either literally or constructively") United States v. Hassan, 578 F.3d 108, 133 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2009).

In Grady, Zvi, and Hassan, the meat of each Court's decision was a question of prejudice by the change of charges. Each Court recognized inadequate notice when original charges give no notice to subsequently changed charges. A conflict exist between the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. COA Application Decision and the mentioned 2<sup>d</sup> Cir. Appeals Court Decisions.

Petitioner will now show a conflict between the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Decision and a 10<sup>th</sup> Cir. COA Decision, addressing procedural Default.

In the instant case, the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. based its default decision on the fact that petitioner did not raise his Prosecutorial Misconduct claim in his direct appeal. The Court held: "Reasonable jurist could not debate the district court's conclusion that Walker's claim was procedurally defaulted. Walker's did not raise his claim in his direct appeal. Under Ohio's res judicata doctrine a petitioner cannot raise a claim that he could have raised in an earlier proceeding but did not. See *State v. Perry*, 226 N.E. 2d 104, 108 (Ohio 1967)."

Here, the Court came to its conclusion without any determination to if the state Court procedurally sanctioned petitioner, even though the Court (Appendix A pg.2) admitted to petitioner presenting this argument before it. As argued supra and to the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir., the state court had the opportunity to sanction, but did not. The 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit implies that a plain statement does not apply by its holding.

In *Ross v. Parker*, 304 Fed. Appx. 655, 660 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008), Mr. Ross raised a ineffective assistance of counsel claim that he did not raise on direct appeal. As to this issue, the Court held: "The OCCA apparently determined that review of this Sixth Amendment claim was barred either by res judicata or the appellate court's procedural bar rule, but it is unclear which it thought applied. The OCCA's decision lacks a "plain statement" that its decision rest upon

adequate and independent state grounds." The Court then cites Harris v. Reed, 489 U.S. 255, 263 n.9 (1989) and Michigan v. Long, 463 U.S. 1032, 1042 (1983), before resuming: "Accordingly, we evaluate the merits of Mr. Ross's ineffective assistance of counsel claim." Here, the state court made an indication to a barring of Ross's Sixth Amendment claim, but never made a plain statement of such. In petitioner's case, the state court did not give any indication of a barring, or a plain statement of such. In the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. COA Decision, the Court simply ignores this Court's Long Rule.

Another 10<sup>th</sup> Cir. Appeals Court decision is adjudicated under the same default premise in Scoggin v. Kaiser, 186 F.3d 1203, 1206 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999) (addressing plain statement).

As to the plain statement rule of Long, a clear conflict exist between the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. COA Decision and the 10<sup>th</sup> Cir. COA Decision.

#### E. RES JUDICATA

Concerning petitioner's Ineffective Assistance of Counsel or Prosecutorial Misconduct claims, res judicata prevents the Respondent from rebutting. ("Under res judicata, a final judgement on the merits of an action precludes the parties or their privies from relitigating issues that were or could have been raised in that action.") Allen v. McCurry,

449 U.S. 90, 94 (1980).

State court record (Appendix M ) will reveal that petitioner's 26(b) Application to Reopen (which is the first chance the State had to rebut petitioner's claims) the State was silent to the merits of the claims, and only asserted that Ohio's res judicata barring applied because petitioner did not raise the claims in his direct appeal. State court record (Appendix C ) will also reveal that the court rendered a final judgment on the merits in the mentioned proceeding.

Res Judicata now bars the Respondent from arguing against petitioner's Prosecutorial Misconduct claim or his Ineffective Assistance of Counsel claim.

#### F. QUESTION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Petitioner will first state that "QUESTION (1)" that petitioner presents to this Honorable Court has not been answered via any published opinions. The closest application exist in United States v. Rojas-Contreras, 474 U.S. 231, 237 (1985), where this Court determined that the offense date change ("Dec. 17, 1981") to ("Dec. 7, 1981") via superseding indictment did not prejudice the defendant, though the question at hand was if a superseding indictment activates the 30 day

trial preparation protections of 3161 (c)(2). Without an answer to petitioner's question by this Court's discretionary powers, petitioners similarly situated will have no direct grounds for vindication through U.S. Supreme Court authority, on the contrast, prosecutors will have ~~no boundaries concerning superseding indictments, which would render~~ the 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights to Due Process, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment right to the Nature and Cause of an offense useless. As a result, at first prosecutors can and will use unethical unfair trial strategies that will obliterate an accused's defence. For example, one could be arrested after being suspect to a fist fight that occurred. The prosecutor could receive this information, but though "bad faith" decide to seek an indictment charging Aggravated Assault. If the indictment is obtained and the accused is notified to an Aggravated Assault charge (in which the police report would vindicate him), the prosecutor could simply seek a superseding indictment charging an Assault offence that is consistent with the police report, two days before trial. In this situation (as in petitioner's), the accused's defense would be shattered in a manner where any length of continuance could not repair it.

Strategies as the mentioned will be supported by citations to each decision in petitioner's case, where the court's rulings imply that grand jury concurrence cures any prejudice caused by

changes of original charges via superseding indictment. Outside of voidable issues, and per se violations, Prejudice is the chief determining factor in every reversible error in American jurisprudence. Though petitioner has asserted, and demonstrated

---

substantial prejudice in every proceeding thus far, the Courts have refused a determination of prejudice, or to even utilize the term.

Petitioner thoroughly understands that any form of reversal or dismissal of indictment by reason of Prosecutorial Misconduct is not favorable by any Court, and such sanction is reserved for "very limited and extreme circumstances."

United States v. McCord, 509 F.2d 334, 350 (D.C. Cir. 1974). Petitioner argues that his issues are extraordinary and can not be cured by any lesser sanction (see Appendix I "Memorandum" pg. 37-39). This pleader urges this Court to enforce proper prosecutorial standards by executing its own discretionary powers, and grasp the fact that if this Court agrees with petitioner, a remand to a inferior court who was silent to prejudice would resemble throwing petitioner back into the lion's den.

The integrity of Ohio's and the United State's

tribunals will be abolished if such ideology as the 6<sup>th</sup> Cir. Appeals Court Decision or the lower court's decisions are adopted.

With the upmost respect to each seat, petitioner reminds this Honorable Court that this is not a case of innocents or guilt, but a case of procedural issues which rendered a trial unfair.

---

Petitioner prays that upholding impartial trials are the greater concern.

#### CONCLUSION

The petition for a writ of Certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

JELANI WALKER # 729-780  
Pro-Se

/ / 2020