

FILED 09 FEB 09 14:02 USDC-ORP

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

ROBERT J. PAGE,

Petitioner,

v.

BRIAN BELLEQUE,

Respondent.

CV. 07-287-MA

OPINION AND ORDER

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Attorneys for Respondent

MARSH, Judge

Petitioner, an inmate at the Oregon State Penitentiary, brings this habeas corpus proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. For

the reasons set forth below, the petition is denied on the basis that it is untimely.

#### BACKGROUND

On June 9, 1997, petitioner was convicted of Kidnaping in the First Degree, and Assault in the Fourth Degree. Petitioner filed a direct appeal. The Oregon Court of Appeals affirmed from the bench, and the Oregon Supreme Court denied review. State v. Page, 156 Or. App. 399, 967 P.2d 530 (1998), rev. denied, 328 Or. 115 (1998). The appellate judgment issued on January 15, 1999. (Resp. Exh. 107.)

On February 4, 1999, petitioner signed a petition for post-conviction relief.<sup>1</sup> The state trial court denied relief, the Oregon Court of Appeals affirmed without opinion, and the Oregon Supreme Court upheld the judgment of the post-conviction court in a written decision. The appellate judgment issued on March 15, 2004. (Resp. Exh. 134.) The U.S. Supreme Court denied *certiorari* on October 4, 2004. Page v. Palmateer, 336 Or. 379, 84 P.3d 133 (2004), cert. denied, 543 U.S. 866 (2004).

On May 19, 2005, petitioner signed a successive petition for post-conviction relief relying upon the Supreme Court decision in Blakely v. Washington, 541 U.S. 27 (2004). The trial court

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of calculating whether petitioner's habeas petition is timely, I have given him the benefit of the mailbox rule as to all of his *pro se* filings. See Houston v. Lack, 487 U.S. 266, 270-71 (1988).

dismissed the petition, the Oregon Court of Appeals affirmed without opinion, and the Oregon Supreme Court denied review. The appellate judgment issued on January 17, 2007. (Resp. Exh. 144.)

#### DISCUSSION

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1), a one-year period of limitation applies to an application for a writ of habeas corpus filed "by a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court." The limitation period runs from the latest of-

(A) the date on which the judgment became final by the conclusion of direct review or the expiration of the time for seeking such review;

(B) the date on which the impediment to filing an application created by State action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the applicant was prevented from filing by such State action;

(C) the date on which the constitutional right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if the right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or

(D) the date on which the factual predicate of the claim or claims presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1).

The parties agree that the limitation period did not begin to run in this case until the conclusion of petitioner's first state post-conviction proceeding. However, the parties differ as to whether the limitation period began to run when the state appellate judgment issued in the post-conviction proceeding, or months later

when the U.S. Supreme Court denied *certiorari*. The Supreme Court recently answered this question, concluding that the limitation period is not tolled during the pendency of *certiorari* in a state collateral proceeding. Lawrence v. Florida, 549 U.S. 327, 332-34 (2007).

Hence, the limitation period in this case began to run on March 15, 2004, when the state appellate judgment issued. Assuming that the second post-conviction proceeding tolled the limitations, it was not filed until May 19, 2005. A total of 430 days accrued between the time the appellate judgment issued in the first post-conviction proceeding, and the filing of the second state post-conviction proceeding. An additional 37 days accrued between the date the appellate judgment issued in the second state post-conviction proceeding, and the filing of this case, for a total of 467. Accordingly, petitioner's habeas petition was filed 102 days beyond the limitation period. Petitioner provides no basis for equitable tolling in this case. Accordingly, the petition is denied as untimely.

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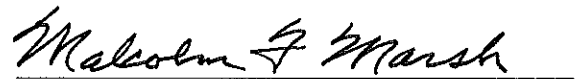
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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, petitioner's habeas corpus petition (#1) is DENIED, and this proceeding is DISMISSED, with prejudice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 9 day of February, 2009.

  
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Malcolm F. Marsh  
United States District Judge