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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION

MR. ROBERT FORD,
Petitioner,
v.
M. McDONALD (WARDEN),
Respondent.

No. CV 09-7371 GHK (FFM)
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY
PETITION SHOULD NOT BE
DISMISSED AS TIME-BARRED

Petitioner, a prisoner in state custody constructively filed¹ a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (“Petition”) on September 29, 2009. Petitioner alleges that the California Supreme Court denied direct review of his conviction on February 16, 2007. (Petition at 3.) Petitioner also alleges that he has not filed habeas petitions in state court with respect to his judgement of conviction. (*Id.*)

The present proceedings were initiated after the April 24, 1996 effective date of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (“AEDPA”). Accordingly, the AEDPA’s timeliness provisions apply, including a one-year limitations period which is subject to both statutory and equitable tolling. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1). For those prisoners, like petitioner, whose convictions became final post-AEDPA, the one-year period starts running from the latest of

¹ A *pro se* prisoner’s relevant filings may be construed as filed on the date they were submitted to prison authorities for mailing, under the prison “mailbox rule” of *Houston v. Lack*, 487 U.S. 266, 108 S. Ct. 2379, 101 L. Ed. 2d 245 (1988).

1 four alternative dates set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1)(A)-(D). *See, e.g.,*
2 *Patterson v. Stewart*, 251 F.3d 1243, 1245-47 (9th Cir. 2001). The operative
3 provision which appears to apply in this case is set forth in 28 U.S.C. §
4 2244(d)(1)(A). That subparagraph provides that the one-year period begins to run
5 from “the date on which the judgment became final by the conclusion of direct
6 review or the expiration of the time for seeking such review.” Where, as here, the
7 challenged judgment was affirmed by the state’s highest court, the period of direct
8 review ends either when the petitioner failed to file a *certiorari* petition in the
9 United States Supreme Court and the 90-day period for doing so has expired, or
10 when the Supreme Court has ruled on a filed petition. *See Clay v. United States*,
11 537 U.S. 522, 527-32 and ns. 3-4, 123 S. Ct. 1072, 155 L. Ed. 2d 88 (2003);
12 *Wixom v. Washington*, 264 F.3d 894, 897 (9th Cir. 2001).

13 In this case, petitioner does not appear to have filed a *certiorari* petition in
14 the United States Supreme Court. (*See, e.g.,* Petition at 2-5). Thus, under section
15 2244(d)(1)(A), petitioner’s conviction became final 90 days after the February 16,
16 2007, denial of the petition for review by the California Supreme Court, or on
17 May 20, 2007. *See Clay*, 537 U.S. at 527-32 and ns.3, 4; 28 U.S.C. § 2101(d);
18 Sup. Ct. R. 13.1. Accordingly, the one-year limitations period expired on May 20,
19 2008. *Patterson*, 251 F.3d at 1245-47. However, petitioner did not initiate the
20 present proceedings until over a year after the limitations period expired. As a
21 result, the present action is untimely, absent statutory or equitable tolling. *See* 28
22 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1); Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 6(a).

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