

1  
2  
3 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
4 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
5

6 MARVIN BRYANT,

No. C 06-0005 CW (PR)

7 Petitioner,

ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR WRIT  
OF HABEAS CORPUS; DENYING  
CERTIFICATE OF APPEALABILITY

8 v.

9 T. FELKER, Warden,

10 Respondent.  
\_\_\_\_\_/

11  
12 Petitioner Marvin Bryant is a prisoner of the State of  
13 California, incarcerated at CSP-Solano. On May 29, 2007,  
14 Petitioner filed pro se a second amended petition<sup>1</sup> for a writ of  
15 habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging the validity  
16 of his 2002 state convictions. Respondent filed an answer and  
17 Petitioner filed a traverse. Having considered all of the papers  
18 filed by the parties, the Court DENIES the petition for writ of  
19 habeas corpus.

20 BACKGROUND

21 I. Procedural History

22 In 2002, Petitioner waived his right to a jury trial and was  
23 convicted of attempted murder, residential robbery, assault with a  
24

25  
26 <sup>1</sup> On January 3, 2006, Petitioner filed an original petition for  
27 writ of habeas corpus. On March 15, 2007, the Court stayed the  
28 petition in order to allow Petitioner to exhaust his claims. On April  
23, 2007, Petitioner filed an amended petition and on May 29, 2007,  
Petitioner filed a second amended petition. On June 30, 2009, the  
Court lifted the stay, granted Petitioner leave to file the second  
amended petition, and directed Respondent to file a response showing  
cause why Petitioner's second amended petition should not be granted.

1 firearm, and residential burglary. (Resp. Memo. at 1.) On May 2,  
2 2003, the trial court sentenced Petitioner to twenty-eight years.  
3 (Second Amended Petition (SAP) at 2.) The trial court found true  
4 the allegations of personal use of a firearm, intentional discharge  
5 of a firearm, and infliction of great bodily injury.

6 Petitioner timely appealed to the California Court of Appeal.  
7 On September 20, 2004, the California Court of Appeal filed a  
8 written opinion rejecting Petitioner's claims. (Resp. Ex. 9.)  
9 Petitioner proceeded to the California Supreme Court, which denied  
10 his petition in a one sentence order on December 1, 2004. (Resp.  
11 Ex. 11.) Petitioner filed unsuccessful state habeas petitions in  
12 the California Court of Appeal and California Supreme Court. (Resp.  
13 Exs. 12, 14, 16, 19-21.) Thereafter, Petitioner filed the  
14 underlying second amended petition.

15 II. Statement of Facts

16 The California Court of Appeal described the facts as follows:

17 In the spring of 2001 Denise Turner lived in the same Concord  
18 apartment complex as Pamela and Raman Khanna, and Turner sold  
19 Pamela Vicodin pills on a weekly basis. Sometimes Pamela paid  
20 for the Vicodin with \$100 bills that she got from Raman.  
Raman kept \$100 bills in a lockbox located in the Khannas's  
bedroom closet.

21 On May 7, 2001, Pamela hung up the telephone on Turner when  
22 Turner called asking for \$40 that she claimed Pamela owed her  
23 for Vicodin. Minutes later Turner showed up at the Khannas's  
apartment and argued with Pamela, who asked her to leave.  
Raman gave Turner \$40 and as she left, Pamela called her a  
"fucking black bitch."

24 Less than 10 minutes later, when Raman answered a knock at the  
25 door he saw two African American men on the landing outside  
26 his door, and a third African American man on the stairway.  
27 At trial Raman identified the 18-year-old defendant as one of  
28 the men on the landing. The other man on the landing,  
Turner's brother Nathan Westbrook, said to Raman, "You called  
my sister a black bitch," and Pamela said, "No, I did." After  
Westbrook threatened to break the door down, Raman went out

1 and apologized for the "misunderstanding" between Turner and  
2 Pamela. As the three men walked away, defendant said, "You're  
looking to get knocked off."

3 At approximately 2:30 a.m. on May 9, 2001, Pamela woke up  
4 Raman after hearing someone trying to break in the front door.  
5 Through the kitchen window Raman saw appellant prying the lock  
6 on the door. After several minutes, Raman unsuccessfully  
7 looked out the door's peephole, the door swung open hitting  
8 Raman, and he fell to the floor. Defendant entered, demanded  
9 Raman's money, asked where the "hundreds" and Raman's wife  
10 were. Defendant then shot Raman in the shoulder, grabbed his  
11 hair, and slashed his throat with a knife. Defendant then  
12 demanded that Raman crawl to the bedroom where he looked  
13 through drawers and the closet in which Pamela was hiding.  
14 About 10 minutes later, defendant left the apartment with  
15 Raman's lockbox and key, wallet and cell phone. Pamela called  
16 911.

17 While being transported to the hospital Raman told police  
18 about the argument between Turner and Pamela, that three men  
19 had come to the door and he was not sure he could identify his  
20 attacker. He did say his attacker wore black clothing and a  
21 black beanie. At about 7:00 a.m. following surgery, Raman  
22 gave a taped interview with police and described his attacker  
23 as the youngest of the three men who had come to his door.  
24 Two days later, while still in the hospital, Raman was shown a  
25 photo lineup and pointed to photo number 6, which was not  
26 defendant's photo, and said, "this guy looks the most like  
27 him."

28 Thereafter defendant was interviewed by police and police  
obtained a current photograph of him to construct a new photo  
lineup. Several days later, after being discharged from the  
hospital, Raman identified defendant as his attacker in a  
second photo lineup which contained defendant's current photo.  
In the second photo, defendant was much lighter and in a  
different position than the photo of him which was included in  
the earlier photo lineup shown to Raman. The second photo  
lineup also contained five filler photos which were different  
from the five filler photos included in the earlier photo  
lineup. Raman identified defendant as his attacker from this  
second photo lineup and again at the preliminary hearing. A  
neighbor of the Khannas's told police that after hearing a  
"pop" he saw a Black man run from the stairwell leading to his  
and the Khannas's apartment. In August 2002 he picked  
defendant's picture from a photo lineup, said he recognized  
him from the night of the offense and that he looked familiar.

An investigation of the crime scene revealed that the screen  
to the Khannas's kitchen window had been removed, pry marks  
were on the screen and door frames and the peephole had been  
taped. Defendant's fingerprints were found on the exterior  
kitchen window. The knife which Raman said looked like the

1 one that had slashed him was recovered from a planter box on  
2 the other side of the apartment complex. Defendant, who lived  
3 at the apartment complex, was briefly detained by police about  
4 30 minutes after the incident and about 200 yards from the  
5 Khannas's apartment. Defendant was released because his  
6 clothing did not match the dispatch description of Raman's  
7 attacker.

8 Testifying on his own behalf, defendant admitted: vandalizing  
9 a car at age 14, an auto theft conviction at age 16, a 1997  
10 arrest for possessing a "Ninja-rock," used to break car  
11 windows, a 1998 arrest for stealing a video game, and a 1999  
12 allegation of domestic violence by his girlfriend. Defendant  
13 said he was at Turner's apartment when she came home upset  
14 that Pamela had called her a "black bitch." He admitted he  
15 went with Westbrook and two other men to Pamela's apartment to  
16 demand an apology. He said Westbrook, Raman and Pamela argued  
17 outside the Khannas's apartment. Defendant denied saying  
18 anything or threatening the Khannas. He also denied returning  
19 to the Khannas's apartment and having any involvement in the  
20 crimes committed.

21 (Resp. Ex. 9 at 2-4.)

#### 22 LEGAL STANDARD

23 A federal court may entertain a habeas petition from a state  
24 prisoner "only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of  
25 the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States."

26 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a). Under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death  
27 Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA), a district court may not grant habeas  
28 relief unless the state court's 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." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d); Williams v.

Taylor, 529 U.S. 362, 412 (2000). The first prong applies both to  
questions of law and to mixed questions of law and fact, id. at

1 407-09, and the second prong applies to decisions based on factual  
2 determinations, Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 340 (2003).

3 A state court decision is "contrary to" Supreme Court  
4 authority, that is, falls under the first clause of § 2254(d)(1),  
5 only if "the state court arrives at a conclusion opposite to that  
6 reached by [the Supreme] Court on a question of law or if the state  
7 court decides a case differently than [the Supreme] Court has on a  
8 set of materially indistinguishable facts." Williams, 529 U.S. at  
9 412-13. A state court decision is an "unreasonable application of"  
10 Supreme Court authority, under the second clause of § 2254(d)(1),  
11 if it correctly identifies the governing legal principle from the  
12 Supreme Court's decisions but "unreasonably applies that principle  
13 to the facts of the prisoner's case." Id. at 413. The federal  
14 court on habeas review may not issue the writ "simply because that  
15 court concludes in its independent judgment that the relevant  
16 state-court decision applied clearly established federal law  
17 erroneously or incorrectly." Id. at 411. Rather, the application  
18 must be "objectively unreasonable" to support granting the writ.  
19 Id. at 409.

20 "Factual determinations by state courts are presumed correct  
21 absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary." Miller-El,  
22 537 U.S. at 340. A petitioner must present clear and convincing  
23 evidence to overcome the presumption of correctness under  
24 § 2254(e)(1); conclusory assertions will not do. Id. Although  
25 only Supreme Court law is binding on the states, Ninth Circuit  
26 precedent remains relevant persuasive authority in determining  
27  
28

1 whether a state court decision is objectively unreasonable. Clark  
2 v. Murphy, 331 F.3d 1062, 1069 (9th Cir. 2003).

3 If constitutional error is found, habeas relief is warranted  
4 only if the error had a "'substantial and injurious effect or  
5 influence in determining the jury's verdict.'" Penry v. Johnson,  
6 532 U.S. 782, 795 (2001) (quoting Brecht v. Abrahamson, 507 U.S.  
7 619, 638 (1993)).

8 When there is no reasoned opinion from the highest state court  
9 to consider the petitioner's claims, the court looks to the last  
10 reasoned opinion of the highest court to analyze whether the state  
11 judgment was erroneous under the standard of § 2254(d). Ylst v.  
12 Nunnemaker, 501 U.S. 797, 801-06 (1991). However, the standard of  
13 review under AEDPA is somewhat different where the state court  
14 gives no reasoned explanation of its decision on a petitioner's  
15 federal claim and there is no reasoned lower court decision on the  
16 claim. In such a case, a review of the record is the only means of  
17 deciding whether the state court's decision was objectively  
18 reasonable. See Plascencia v. Alameida, 467 F.3d 1190, 1197-98  
19 (9th Cir. 2006); Himes v. Thompson, 336 F.3d 848, 853 (9th Cir.  
20 2003); Greene v. Lambert, 288 F.3d 1081, 1088 (9th Cir. 2002).  
21 When confronted with such a decision, a federal court should  
22 conduct "an independent review of the record" to determine whether  
23 the state court's decision was an objectively unreasonable  
24 application of clearly established federal law. Plascencia, 467  
25 F.3d at 1198; accord Lambert v. Blodgett, 393 F.3d 943, 970 n.16  
26 (9th Cir. 2004). The federal court need not otherwise defer to the  
27 state court decision under AEDPA: "A state court's decision on the  
28

1 merits concerning a question of law is, and should be, afforded  
2 respect. If there is no such decision on the merits, however,  
3 there is nothing to which to defer." Greene, 288 F.3d at 1089.

4 DISCUSSION

5 Petitioner raises four claims in his federal habeas petition.  
6 First, he alleges that the pre-trial photo identification procedure  
7 was unduly suggestive and tainted Raman's in-court identification.  
8 Second, Petitioner asserts that counsel was ineffective for failing  
9 to file a motion to exclude the pre-trial identification. Third,  
10 Petitioner alleges that the prosecutor committed misconduct by  
11 allowing Raman to commit perjury. Finally, Petitioner claims that  
12 his sentence violates United States v. Booker, 543 U.S. 220 (2005).

13 I. Suggestive identification procedure

14 In the first photo line-up, Raman pointed at Number 6 as the  
15 person who looked "most like" the assailant. Petitioner was not  
16 the person depicted in Number 6. Six days after the attack, Raman  
17 was shown another photo line-up, with a different, more recent  
18 photo of Petitioner, and without photograph No. 6 from the first  
19 line-up. Raman pointed at the Petitioner's photo and indicated  
20 that he was the assailant. Petitioner claims that the pre-trial  
21 photo identification procedure was unduly suggestive. Petitioner  
22 claims that because he was the only person to have appeared in both  
23 photo line-ups, Raman was more likely to choose him. Petitioner  
24 also asserts that the failure to include the Number 6 photo from  
25 the first line-up in the second line-up must have led Raman to  
26 believe that the person he thought might be the suspect, in fact,  
27 was not and therefore, he had to choose someone else. Thus,

28

1 alleges Petitioner, the identification procedure was unnecessarily  
2 suggestive.

3 The California Supreme Court summarily denied this claim.

4 Procedures by which a defendant is identified as the  
5 perpetrator must be examined to assess whether they are unduly  
6 suggestive. "It is the likelihood of misidentification which  
7 violates a defendant's right to due process." Neil v. Biggers, 409  
8 U.S. 188, 198 (1972). An identification procedure is impermissibly  
9 suggestive when it emphasizes a single individual, thereby  
10 increasing the likelihood of misidentification. Foster v.  
11 California, 394 U.S. 440, 443 (1969); United States v. Bagley, 772  
12 F.2d 482, 493 (9th Cir. 1985).

13 Petitioner's photo in the first line-up, placed in position  
14 Number 3, had been taken two years prior at a DMV office. (RT 494-  
15 495.) The officer who assembled the photo line-up had the picture  
16 enhanced to improve exposure. (Id.) Petitioner's photo in the  
17 second line-up, placed in position Number 4, had been taken three  
18 days after the underlying crimes. (RT at 498-499; Ex. 8.)

19 The photo line-ups were not impermissibly suggestive.  
20 Analyzing the photo line-ups separately, a comparison of the photos  
21 in the first line-up does not reveal any significant differences  
22 between the men displayed in the spread. (Resp. Ex. 7.) All of  
23 the men were African-American and mostly clean-shaven<sup>2</sup> with similar  
24 short hair styles. (Id.) In addition, with the exception of  
25 Number 6, the one that Raman believed looked most like the

26  
27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>2</sup> Raman indicated that he was not sure whether his assailant had  
facial hair. (RT 221, 233-235.)



1 assailant, all of the men were photographed against a blue  
2 background. The first photo line-up does not single out Petitioner  
3 from the others.

4 A comparison of the photos in the second line-up also does not  
5 reveal any significant differences among them. (Resp. Ex. 8.)  
6 Again, all the men were African-American and mostly clean-shaven  
7 with similar short hair styles. (Id.) The men were also all  
8 photographed against a light background. (Id.) There is no  
9 particular emphasis on Petitioner in the second line-up that would  
10 have singled him out from the others.

11 In addition, the omission of photo Number 6 from the second  
12 line-up, combined with Petitioner being the only common individual  
13 in both line-ups, did not emphasize the focus upon a single  
14 individual. Here, Officer Murray, the officer who presented both  
15 photographic line-ups to Raman, testified that prior to showing  
16 Raman each photo array, he gave the standard admonition to him,  
17 advising him that he was under no obligation to select any  
18 individual and that the purpose of the line-up was not only to find  
19 the attacker, but also to eliminate those who were innocent of the  
20 crime. (RT 154, 498, 500.) At no time did Murray emphasize any  
21 individual when showing Raman the photo arrays. (RT 189.)

22 Although Raman had pointed to the Number 6 photo in the first line-  
23 up as the man who looked "most like" his assailant, both Raman and  
24 Murray testified that Raman actually did not identify anyone in the  
25 first photo line-up as his attacker. (RT 155, 496, 532-33.) In  
26 fact, with respect to the first photo line-up, Raman referred to  
27 every picture except Petitioner's, and remarked that "the people  
28

1 looked familiar." (RT 496-98; 532-33.) In contrast, a few days  
2 later, when the officer presented Raman with the second photo line-  
3 up, which included the more recent photo of Petitioner, Raman  
4 quickly pointed to Petitioner's photograph and stated, "Right  
5 there." (RT 501.) Thus, the record belies Petitioner's assertion  
6 that omitting the Number 6 photo from the second photo line-up  
7 implicitly told Raman that his "initial choice" was wrong because,  
8 although Raman stated Number 6 looked the most like his attacker,  
9 he actually did not identify anyone from the first photo array as  
10 his attacker.

11 The fact that Petitioner was the only person to have appeared  
12 in both photo line-ups is also not unduly suggestive. See United  
13 States v. Davenport, 753 F.2d 1460, 1463 (9th Cir. 1985) (rejecting  
14 a claim of suggestive pretrial identification based only on the  
15 fact that appellant was "the only individual common to the photo  
16 spread and the lineup"). While this practice can arguably be  
17 suggestive in certain instances, it does not per se invalidate the  
18 procedure. Moreover, in this case, Murray used a different  
19 photograph of the Petitioner in each line-up and placed it in a  
20 different location in the arrays. This is not a situation in which  
21 Raman was repeatedly shown a photograph of Petitioner, or in which  
22 the police specifically emphasized Petitioner in some way. See  
23 Simmons v. United States, 390 U.S. 377, 383-84 (1968).

24 Thus, Petitioner has failed to demonstrate that the  
25 identification procedures used in the case were "so unnecessarily  
26 suggestive and conducive to irreparable mistaken identification  
27 that he was denied due process of law." Johnson v. Sublett, 63  
28

1 F.3d 926, 929 (1995) (internal quotation marks and citation  
2 omitted) (finding no due process violation where any possible  
3 prejudice defendant may suffer from unreliable identification  
4 mitigated by cross-examination and other courtroom safeguards).

5       However, even if the pretrial identification procedure was  
6 unduly suggestive, the in-court identification need not necessarily  
7 be excluded as tainted. In order to determine whether an  
8 identification procedure is so unduly suggestive so as to give rise  
9 to a substantial likelihood of misidentification, the Court must  
10 examine the totality of the circumstances. See Bagley, 772 F.2d at  
11 492 (citing Simmons, 390 U.S. at 384). Reliability is the linchpin  
12 in determining the admissibility of identification testimony.  
13 Manson v. Brathwaite, 432 U.S. 98, 100-14 (1977).

14       In determining whether in-court identification testimony is  
15 sufficiently reliable, courts consider five factors: (1) the  
16 witness' opportunity to view the perpetrator at the time of the  
17 incident; (2) the witness' degree of attention; (3) the accuracy of  
18 the witness' prior description; (4) the level of certainty  
19 demonstrated by the witness at the time of the identification  
20 procedure; and (5) the length of time between the incident and the  
21 identification. Manson, 432 U.S. at 114; Neil, 409 U.S. at 199-  
22 200. See, e.g., United States v. Drake, 543 F.3d 1080, 1089 (9th  
23 Cir. 2008) (finding that where first four factors weighed in favor  
24 of reliability, four-day delay between robbery and photo spread  
25 identification did not call identification's accuracy into  
26 question); United States v. Wang, 49 F.3d 502, 505 (9th Cir. 1995)  
27 (identification of defendant in photographs reliable where witness  
28

1 had ample opportunity to view defendant and actually spoke with  
2 him).

3 In order to analyze the in-court identification under the  
4 factors set out in Manson and Neil, the specific circumstances of  
5 Raman's opportunity to view the assailant on the night of the  
6 crimes must be considered. At the time of the robbery, Raman saw  
7 Petitioner from his window trying to pry open Raman's front door.  
8 (RT 130-131.) Raman observed Petitioner's face for about two or  
9 three minutes. (Id.) Once the Petitioner came into the house,  
10 Raman had an opportunity to observe his face for another few  
11 minutes before Petitioner shot him and slashed his throat, and  
12 again when Raman gave Petitioner a key to a lockbox. (RT 133-135,  
13 138, 147-148.) The first two factors weigh in favor of the  
14 reliability of the identification. Even though Raman was likely  
15 fearful and distracted once Petitioner entered the house, Raman did  
16 watch Petitioner for several minutes prior to that time trying to  
17 pry open the front door. In his interview with the police, Raman  
18 described his attacker as an African-American male, about 5'9" or  
19 5'10", 160 pounds, and approximately 20 years old. (RT 167.) The  
20 third factor also weighs in favor of reliability, especially  
21 considering that Raman recognized Petitioner from the May 7  
22 incident. (RT 151, 216.) In addition, when Raman selected  
23 Petitioner from the second photo line-up, he did not hesitate and  
24 was certain that Petitioner was the assailant. (RT 501.) Finally,  
25 that Raman was shown this second photo line-up only six days after  
26 the attack supports the reliability of the identification. See  
27 Neil, 409 U.S. at 201.

28

1 In sum, the state court decisions were not unreasonable: the  
2 identification was reliable and, even assuming that the photo  
3 identification procedure was suggestive, its admission and the in-  
4 court identification did not violate due process.

5 II. Ineffective Assistance of Counsel

6 Petitioner claims that counsel rendered ineffective assistance  
7 by failing to move to exclude Raman's pretrial or in-court  
8 identification of Petitioner as being a result of an impermissibly  
9 suggestive identification procedure.

10 The California Supreme Court denied this claim without  
11 comment.

12 A claim of ineffective assistance of counsel is cognizable as  
13 a claim of denial of the Sixth Amendment right to counsel, which  
14 guarantees not only assistance, but effective assistance of  
15 counsel. Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 686 (1984). The  
16 benchmark for judging any claim of ineffectiveness must be whether  
17 counsel's conduct so undermined the proper functioning of the  
18 adversarial process that the trial cannot be relied upon as having  
19 produced a just result. Id. In order to prevail on a Sixth  
20 Amendment ineffectiveness of counsel claim, a petitioner must  
21 establish two things. First, he must establish that counsel's  
22 performance was deficient, i.e., that it fell below an "objective  
23 standard of reasonableness" under prevailing professional norms.  
24 Strickland, 466 U.S. at 687-88. Judicial scrutiny of counsel's  
25 performance must be highly deferential, and a court must indulge a  
26 strong presumption that counsel's conduct falls within the wide

27  
28

1 range of reasonable professional assistance. See Strickland, 466  
2 U.S. at 689.

3 Second, a petitioner must establish that he was prejudiced by  
4 counsel's deficient performance, i.e., that "there is a reasonable  
5 probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the  
6 result of the proceeding would have been different." Id. at 694.  
7 A reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine  
8 confidence in the outcome. Id. In federal habeas cases, a "doubly  
9 deferential judicial review" is appropriate in analyzing  
10 ineffective assistance of counsel claims. Cheney v. Washington,  
11 614 F.3d 987, 994-95 (9th Cir. 2010) (citing Yarborough v.  
12 Alvarado, 541 U.S. 652, 664 (2004)).

13 Notwithstanding the declaration from Petitioner's appellate  
14 counsel that trial counsel admitted there was no tactical reason  
15 for him not to raise a suppression motion (Traverse, Ex. C), the  
16 state courts were not unreasonable in determining that counsel was  
17 not ineffective. As discussed above, it was not unreasonable to  
18 find that the pretrial identification procedure was not unduly  
19 suggestive. Moreover, the circumstances weigh in favor of a  
20 reliable identification. See Manson v. Brathwaite, 432 U.S. 98,  
21 100-14 (1977). Accordingly, Petitioner has not demonstrated a  
22 reasonable probability that the result of the proceeding would have  
23 been different had counsel challenged the pretrial identification  
24 procedure. See Wilson v. Henry, 185 F.3d 986, 990 (9th Cir. 1999)  
25 (to show prejudice under Strickland from failure to file a motion,  
26 petitioner must show that (1) had his counsel filed the motion, it  
27 is reasonable that the trial court would have granted it as  
28

1 meritorious, and (2) had the motion been granted, it is reasonable  
2 that there would have been an outcome more favorable to him).

3 III. Prosecutorial misconduct

4 Petitioner claims that the prosecutor committed misconduct  
5 when he allowed Raman to testify falsely that before the attack,  
6 there was a screen on the kitchen window that was not there after  
7 the attack. Petitioner argues that Raman had stated previously  
8 that on May 7 when the three men confronted Raman and his wife,  
9 Raman had said, "When the guys were leaning through my kitchen  
10 window . . ." which indicated that there was no screen present at  
11 least two days before the attack.

12 The California Supreme Court denied this claim without  
13 comment.

14 "[A] conviction obtained by the knowing use of perjured  
15 testimony is fundamentally unfair, and must be set aside if there  
16 is any reasonable likelihood that the false testimony could have  
17 affected the judgment of the jury." United States v. Agurs, 427  
18 U.S. 97, 103 (1976). Even a conviction based in part on perjured  
19 testimony or false evidence, presented in good faith, does not  
20 comport with notions of fundamental fairness guaranteed by the due  
21 process clause. See Hayes v. Brown, 399 F.3d 972, 980 (9th Cir.  
22 2005). Thus, when the government unwittingly presents perjured  
23 testimony, a reviewing court must determine whether "'there is a  
24 reasonable probability that [without all the perjury] the result of  
25 the proceeding would have been different.'" Killian v. Poole, 282  
26 F.3d 1204, 1209 (9th Cir. 2002). Ultimately, relief will depend on  
27 whether, with the perjured testimony or false evidence, the  
28

1 petitioner received a fair trial. See Kyles v. Whitley, 514 U.S.  
2 419, 434 (1995). A violation will be found, and relief will be  
3 granted, upon a showing that the perjured testimony or false  
4 evidence could reasonably be taken to put the whole case in such a  
5 different light as to undermine confidence in the verdict. See id.  
6 at 435.

7 Even if Raman's testimony was inconsistent, this does not mean  
8 that one of his statements was false. "Mere inconsistencies in  
9 testimony by government witnesses do not establish knowing use of  
10 false testimony." Coe v. Bell, 161 F.3d 320, 343 (6th Cir. 1998);  
11 see United States v. Croft, 124 F.3d 1109, 1119-1120 (9th Cir.  
12 1997) ("The fact that a witness may have made an earlier  
13 inconsistent statement, or that other witnesses have conflicting  
14 recollections of events, does not establish that the testimony  
15 offered at trial was false."); United States v. Zuno-Arce, 44 F.3d  
16 1420, 1423 (9th Cir. 1995) (no evidence of prosecutorial misconduct  
17 where discrepancies in testimony could as easily flow from errors  
18 in recollection as from lies).

19 Moreover, even if the trial testimony were false, it is not  
20 probable that, without it, the result of the trial would have been  
21 different. Detective Finney testified that on the day of the  
22 attack, he investigated the crime scene and noticed that although  
23 there was a frame within the kitchen window, the frame was bent and  
24 there were pry marks on the corner, but no screen inside the frame.  
25 (RT 272.) The prosecution's fingerprint expert matched three  
26 latent prints from the kitchen window with Petitioner's prints.  
27 Finney also testified that he found a portion of screen fabric on  
28



1 the stairway leading up to Raman's apartment (RT 274), but never  
2 located the entire screen (RT 288). This leads to the inference  
3 that someone tried to pry open the window and removed the screen  
4 around the time of the attack. On the other hand, Petitioner  
5 testified that he could have left his fingerprints accidentally on  
6 the window on May 7 rather than on May 9. (RT 822.) In addition,  
7 Petitioner's version of events included Raman's wife sticking her  
8 head out of the kitchen window on May 7 to confront Denise (RT 818-  
9 21), which would indicate that there was no screen on the window on  
10 that date, contrary to Raman's trial testimony. These credibility  
11 determinations were properly weighed and determined by the trier of  
12 fact and may not be re-weighed in this Court. Moreover, the issue  
13 in this case was one of identification, and whether the screen was  
14 present at the time of the attack was not material to the ultimate  
15 determination of Petitioner's guilt.

16 Therefore, because Petitioner fails to prove that the  
17 statements were false, or that the testimony was material, his  
18 prosecutorial misconduct claim fails under the Agurs/Napue  
19 standard. See Allen v. Woodford, 395 F.3d 979, 995 (9th Cir. 2005)  
20 (rejecting claim of prosecutorial misconduct where witness'  
21 inconsistencies were pointed out to the jury and witness was  
22 subjected to impeachment evidence and concluding that appellant  
23 failed to establish falsity of testimony). Accordingly, the state  
24 courts' decision denying relief on this claim was not contrary to  
25 or an unreasonable application of clearly established federal law.

1 IV. Booker claim

2 Petitioner argues that, because United States v. Booker, 543  
3 U.S. 220 (2005), held that the mandatory application of the United  
4 States Sentencing Guidelines was unconstitutional, the trial court  
5 was not required to impose a twenty year mandatory gun enhancement  
6 pursuant to California Penal Code § 12022.53(c).

7 Because Petitioner was not sentenced under the United States  
8 Sentencing Guidelines, this argument is meritless. To the extent  
9 Petitioner is arguing that his twenty year gun enhancement violates  
10 the Sixth Amendment because it was not submitted to a jury, his  
11 argument still fails. Petitioner opted to be tried by the court  
12 and waived his right to a jury trial. Thus, the gun enhancement  
13 was found true by the trier of fact. See Wright v. Craven, 412  
14 F.2d 915, 918-919 (9th Cir. 1969); Swanson v. Adams, 2007 WL  
15 3119553, \*6 (N.D. Cal.) ("Although there is little recent law and  
16 none directly on point, it was reasonable for the court of appeal  
17 to hold that when petitioner waived his right to a jury trial, he  
18 waived his right to a jury determination of all issues in the case,  
19 including those that formed the basis of the trial court's  
20 sentencing decision.").

21 CONCLUSION

22 For the foregoing reasons, the petition for a writ of habeas  
23 corpus is denied.

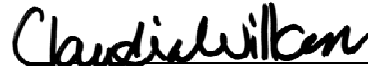
24 Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases now  
25 requires a district court to rule on whether a petitioner is  
26 entitled to a certificate of appealability in the same order in  
27 which the petition is denied. Reasonable jurists could find the  
28

1 Court's assessment of the following claims debatable: (1) the pre-  
2 trial photo identification procedure was unduly suggestive and  
3 tainted Raman's in-court identification, and (2) counsel was  
4 ineffective for failing to file a motion to exclude the pre-trial  
5 identification. See Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).  
6 Thus, a certificate of appealability is GRANTED as to those two  
7 claims and denied as to the others.

8 The clerk shall enter judgment and close the file. All  
9 pending motions are terminated. Each party shall bear his own  
10 costs.

11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

12  
13 Dated: 1/24/2011



\_\_\_\_\_  
CLAUDIA WILKEN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 FOR THE  
3 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

4 MARVIN BRYANT III,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7 T.FELKER et al,

8 Defendant.

Case Number: CV06-00005 CW

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

9 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District  
10 Court, Northern District of California.

11 That on January 24, 2011, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said  
12 copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing  
13 said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery  
14 receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

15 Marvin Bryant T-92379  
16 3-114U  
17 CSP-Solano  
18 P.O. Box 4000  
19 Vacaville, CA 95696-4000

20 Dated: January 24, 2011

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk  
By: Nikki Riley, Deputy Clerk