

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

<b>CHRISTOPHER SIMPSON,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Petitioner,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>vs.</b>	)	<b>Civil No. 15-cv-853-DRH-CJP</b>
	)	
<b>JAMES CROSS,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Respondent.</b>	)	

**MEMORANDUM and ORDER**

**HERNDON, District Judge:**

Petitioner Christopher Simpson, an inmate in the Bureau of Prisons, filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. §2241. (Doc. 1).

In 2010, petitioner pleaded guilty in the Eastern District of Missouri to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced 180 months imprisonment under 18 U.S.C. §924(e)(Armed Career Criminal Act, or ACCA). Simpson argues that he is entitled to be resentenced without the ACCA enhancement because the Supreme Court declared the residual clause of that statute unconstitutional in the recent case of *Johnson v. United States*, — U.S. —, 135 S.Ct. 2551 (June 26, 2015). Respondent argues that Simpson is precluded from making this argument in a §2241 petition.

**Relevant Facts and Procedural History**

Simpson was sentenced as an Armed Career Criminal because he had three prior convictions for violent felonies. According to the petition, the predicate crimes were Missouri Second Degree Robbery, Illinois Aggravated Battery, and

Illinois Domestic Battery, Subsequent. See, Doc. 1, p. 3.

On direct appeal, Simpson argued that his conviction for Missouri Second Degree Robbery should not have been considered because he was a juvenile when he committed that crime. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected that argument because he had been tried as an adult on the robbery charge. The Court also noted that, counting the Missouri Second Degree Robbery conviction, Simpson actually had *four* prior convictions for violent crimes. *United States v. Simpson*, 419 F. App'x 691 (8th Cir. 2011)(per curiam)(unpublished).

Simpson then filed a motion under 28 U.S.C. §2255 in the Eastern District of Missouri which was denied on October 8, 2014. *Simpson v. United States*, 2014 WL 5025828 (E.D. Mo. Oct. 8, 2014).

### **Applicable Legal Standards**

Generally, petitions for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. §2241 may not be used to raise claims of legal error in conviction or sentencing, but are limited to challenges regarding the execution of a sentence. See, *Valona v. United States*, 138 F.3d 693, 694 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir.1998).

A federally convicted person may challenge his conviction and sentence by bringing a motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2255 in the court which sentenced him. Indeed, a §2255 motion is ordinarily the “exclusive means for a federal prisoner to attack his conviction.” *Kramer v. Olson*, 347 F.3d 214, 217 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003). However, the statute generally limits a prisoner to *one* challenge of his conviction and sentence under §2255. A prisoner may not file a “second or successive”

motion unless a panel of the appropriate court of appeals certifies that such motion contains either 1) newly discovered evidence “sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable factfinder would have found the movant guilty of the offense,” or 2) “a new rule of constitutional law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court, that was previously unavailable.” 28 U.S.C. §2255(h).

It is possible, under very limited circumstances, for a prisoner to challenge his federal conviction or sentence under §2241. 28 U.S.C. §2255(e) contains a “savings clause” which authorizes a federal prisoner to file a §2241 petition where the remedy under §2255 is “inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of his detention.” 28 U.S.C. §2255(e). See, *United States v. Prevatte*, 300 F.3d 792, 798–99 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002). The Seventh Circuit construed the savings clause in *In re Davenport*, 147 F.3d 605 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998), and its progeny.

The Seventh Circuit has explained that, in order to fit within the savings clause following *Davenport*, a petitioner must meet three conditions. First, he must show that he relies on a new statutory interpretation case rather than a constitutional case. Secondly, he must show that he relies on a decision that he could not have invoked in his first §2255 motion *and* the new rule must apply retroactively. Lastly, he must demonstrate that there has been a “fundamental defect” in his conviction or sentence that is grave enough to be deemed a miscarriage of justice. *Brown v. Caraway*, 719 F.3d 583, 586 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2013). See also, *Brown v. Rios*, 696 F3d 638, 640 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2012).

### Analysis

Respondent argues, correctly, that this Court cannot entertain Simpson's petition because it does not fit within the savings clause of 28 U.S.C. §2255(e).

Simpson's petition fails to satisfy the first of the *Davenport* conditions because *Johnson* does not announce a new rule of statutory construction. In *Johnson*, the Supreme Court held that "imposing an increased sentence under the residual clause of the Armed Career Criminal Act violates the Constitution's guarantee of due process." *Johnson*, 135 S. Ct. at 2563. *Johnson* announces a new rule of constitutional law, and, therefore, cannot be the basis for a §2241 petition. *Brown v. Caraway*, 719 F.3d at 586.

While *Johnson* cannot be the basis for a §2241 petition, it may present grounds for filing a second or successive §2255 motion in the district where petitioner was convicted. A second or successive §2255 petition requires permission from the appropriate court of appeals, and is allowed when the court of appeals certifies that the petition is based on "a new rule of constitutional law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court, that was previously unavailable." 28 U.S.C. §2255(h)(2).

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that *Johnson* announces a new substantive rule of *constitutional law* and, moreover, that the new rule applies retroactively in a collateral attack on a final conviction. *Price v. United States*, 795 F.3d 731, 734 (7th Cir. 2015). Accordingly, the Seventh Circuit granted the petitioner in *Price* permission to file a second or successive

§2255 motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2255(h). *Price*, 795 F.3d at 734-35.

If, like the petitioner in *Price*, Simpson decides to pursue relief under §2255, he is advised that because he previously filed a §2255 motion, he must seek permission to file a second or successive §2255 motion with the federal court of appeals of the circuit in which he was sentenced. See 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3). Since he was convicted in the Eastern District of Missouri, the appropriate court would be the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. This Court expresses no opinion as to whether the Eighth Circuit would grant petitioner leave to file a second or successive §2255 motion.

Petitioner should note that 28 U.S.C. 2255(f)(3) requires that a §2255 motion relying on a newly-recognized right must be filed within one year from “the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court...” *Johnson* was decided by the Supreme Court on June 26, 2015. Further, the one-year period prescribed by 2255(f)(3) runs from the date of the Supreme Court's ruling initially recognizing the right asserted, and not from the date the newly recognized right was found to be retroactive. *Dodd v. United States*, 125 S. Ct. 2478, 2482 (2005).

As discussed above, petitioner's *Johnson* argument relies on a constitutional case, and not a case of statutory construction. Therefore, his petition does not meet the first of the *Davenport* conditions. *Brown v. Caraway*, 719 F.3d 583, 586 (7th Cir. 2013). Accordingly, petitioner's §2241 petition (Doc. 1) must be **DISMISSED** with prejudice.

If petitioner wishes to appeal the dismissal of his petition, he may file a notice of appeal with this court within 60 days of the entry of judgment. Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a)(1)(B). A motion for leave to appeal in forma pauperis should set forth the issues petitioner plans to present on appeal. See Fed. R. App. P. 24(a)(1)(C).

Petitioner is further advised that a motion to alter or amend the judgment filed pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e) must be filed no later than 28 days after the entry of the judgment—a deadline that cannot be extended. A proper and timely Rule 59(e) motion may toll the 60-day appeal deadline. Other motions, including a Rule 60 motion for relief from a final judgment, order, or proceeding, do not toll the deadline for an appeal.

It is not necessary for petitioner to obtain a certificate of appealability from this disposition of his §2241 petition. *Walker v. O'Brien*, 216 F.3d 626, 638 (7th Cir. 2000).

### **Conclusion**

Christopher Simpson's petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. §2241 (**Doc. 1**) is **DISMISSED** with prejudice.

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in favor of respondent.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Signed this 18th day of September, 2015.

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David R. Herndon  
Date: 2015.09.18  
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**United States District Court**