

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
8 AT SEATTLE

9 CHRISTOPHER M. GATES,

CASE NO. C20-0446-JCC

10 Petitioner,

ORDER

11 v.

12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

13 Respondent.  
14

15 This matter comes before the Court on Mr. Gates's 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion (Dkt. No.  
16 1), the Government's answer to Mr. Gates's § 2255 motion (Dkt. No. 7) and Mr. Gates's motions  
17 for leave to amend his § 2255 motion (Dkt. Nos. 8, 12–14). Having thoroughly considered the  
18 parties' briefing and the relevant record, the Court finds an evidentiary hearing unnecessary and  
19 hereby DISMISSES the remaining ground in Mr. Gates's § 2255 motion (Dkt. No. 1), GRANTS  
20 in part and DENIES in part Mr. Gates's motions for leave to amend his § 2255 motion (Dkt. No.  
21 8, 12–14), and GRANTS Mr. Gates's request for a copy of his amended motion and for excerpts  
22 of record. (Dkt. No. 8 at 2–3.)

23 **I. BACKGROUND**

24 The Court assumes familiarity with the underlying facts of Mr. Gates's arrest,  
25 prosecution, conviction, and the instant § 2255 motion. (*See* Dkt. No. 6 at 1–3.) Mr. Gates's  
26 § 2255 motion asserted four grounds for relief; the Court dismissed Grounds 2, 3, and 4 and

ORDER  
C20-0446-JCC  
PAGE - 1

1 ordered the Government to respond to Ground 1 (“Original Ground 1”). (*Id.* at 4–6.) The  
2 Government did so. (*See* Dkt. No. 7.)<sup>1</sup> Mr. Gates now moves to amend his § 2255 motion to  
3 assert another 18 grounds for relief. (Dkt. Nos. 8, 12–14.) He also requests (1) a complete  
4 excerpt of the record; and (2) a copy of his amended § 2255 motion. (Dkt. No. 8 at 2–3.)

## 5 **II. DISCUSSION**

### 6 **A. Remaining Ground in the Original § 2255 Motion (Dkt. No. 1)**

7 A prisoner in federal custody who believes his sentence violates the Constitution or  
8 federal law may petition the sentencing court to vacate the conviction or set aside the sentence.  
9 28 U.S.C. § 2255(a). A “collateral attack on a criminal conviction must overcome the threshold  
10 hurdle that the challenged judgment carries with it a presumption of regularity, and . . . the  
11 burden of proof is on the party seeking relief.” *Williams v. United States*, 481 F.2d 339, 346 (2d  
12 Cir. 1973). In reviewing such a petition, a court may rely on the record and evidence from the  
13 original proceeding and may employ the court’s own recollection, experience, and common  
14 sense. *Shah v. United States*, 878 F.2d 1156, 1159 (9th Cir. 1989). A court must grant an  
15 evidentiary hearing “[u]nless the motion and the files and records of the case conclusively show  
16 that the prisoner is entitled to no relief.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(b).

17 In Original Ground 1, Mr. Gates argues that the officers’ seizure of his identification was  
18 involuntary and, thus, an unlawful search and seizure. (Dkt. No. 1 at 4.) The Government argues  
19 that Original Ground 1 is procedurally barred because the Ninth Circuit decided it on direct  
20 appeal and, in the alternative, that it lacks merit. (Dkt. No. 7 at 7–8.) The Court need not decide  
21 whether Original Ground 1 is procedurally barred because the Court determines that Mr. Gates’s  
22 Original Ground 1 is barred as a Fourth Amendment exclusionary rule claim.

23 Courts enforce the Fourth Amendment’s protection against unreasonable searches and  
24

---

25 <sup>1</sup> The Government may have overlooked that the Court has already dismissed Mr. Gates’s  
26 Original Grounds 2 through 4, because it answered each ground in Mr. Gates’s original § 2255  
motion and requested that the motion be dismissed in its entirety. (Dkt. No. 7 at 7–13.)

1 seizures through the exclusionary rule, which bars the use in criminal trials of evidence that was  
2 obtained in violation of the Fourth Amendment. *Stone v. Powell*, 428 U.S. 465, 482–83 (1976).  
3 Because exclusion is an enforcement mechanism and not a constitutional right, a prisoner cannot  
4 seek habeas relief based on the use of unconstitutionally obtained evidence if he has had a “full  
5 and fair” opportunity to litigate the claim at trial or on direct appeal. *Kimmelman v. Morrison*,  
6 477 U.S. 365, 375–76 (1989). It matters only that there was an opportunity to litigate the issue,  
7 not whether a prisoner actually did so “or even whether the claim was correctly decided.”  
8 *Newman v. Wengler*, 790 F.3d 876, 880 (9th Cir. 2015).

9 Mr. Gates had a full and fair opportunity to litigate his Fourth Amendment claims in this  
10 Court. Indeed, the Court entertained one round of motions to suppress and later granted Mr.  
11 Gates’s request to reopen those motions, hold an evidentiary hearing, and raise new arguments in  
12 a second round of motions to suppress. *See United States v. Gates*, Case No. CR15-0253-JCC,  
13 Dkt. Nos. 27–28, 72–73, 77, 85, 89, 91 (W.D. Wash. 2016). Throughout those proceedings, Mr.  
14 Gates had the opportunity to raise his instant claim, but did not properly do so. The Court,  
15 therefore, DISMISSES Original Ground 1. And because the files and record of the case  
16 conclusively show that Mr. Gates is not entitled to relief on Original Ground 1, an evidentiary  
17 hearing is unnecessary. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255(b). The Court also finds that no reasonable jurist  
18 could debate whether this ground should have been resolved differently and thus DENIES a  
19 certificate of appealability as to Original Ground 1. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(3); *Miller-El v.*  
20 *Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 327 (2003).

21 **B. Motion for Leave to Amend (Dkt. No. 8)**

22 The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (“AEDPA”) requires one  
23 seeking habeas relief from a federal criminal judgment to file within a year of “the date on which  
24 the judgment of conviction becomes final.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f)(1). A conviction becomes final  
25 when the Supreme Court denies a writ of certiorari or issues a decision on the merits. *See United*  
26 *States v. Aguirre-Ganceda*, 592 F.3d 1043, 1045 (9th Cir. 2010). The Supreme Court denied Mr.

1 Gates’s petition for certiorari on March 18, 2019. *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 134. Mr.  
2 Gates’s original § 2255 motion falls within the limitations period, one-year from this date, (*see*  
3 Dkt. No. 1 at 12), but his proposed amendment would not; it is thus time-barred unless it relates  
4 back to Mr. Gates’s original motion. *See Ross v. Williams*, 950 F.3d 1160, 1166 (9th Cir. 2020).

5 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15 applies in habeas proceedings. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2242;  
6 *Mayle v. Felix*, 545 U.S. 644, 654–55 (2005). Under Rule 15(c)(1)(B), an amended pleading  
7 relates back to the original pleading for limitations purposes when its contents arise “out of the  
8 conduct, transaction, or occurrence set out—or attempted to be set out—in the original  
9 pleading.” To determine whether an amended petition relates back, the Court must (1) determine  
10 what facts underly the claims in the amended petition; and (2) look “to see whether the original  
11 petition set out or attempted to . . . set out a corresponding factual episode, or whether the claim  
12 is instead supported by facts that differ in both time and type from those the original pleading set  
13 forth.” *Ross*, 950 F.3d at 1167 (cleaned up). The “time and type” test “refers not to the claims, or  
14 grounds for relief. Rather, it refers to *the facts that support those grounds.*” *Nguyen v. Curry*, 736  
15 F.3d 1287, 1297 (9th Cir. 2013) (emphasis original), *abrogated on other grounds by Davila v.*  
16 *Davis*, 137 S. Ct. 2058 (2017). The Court does this analysis when examining each of Mr. Gates’s  
17 proposed amended grounds.

#### 18 1. Proposed Grounds 1–9

19 Each of Mr. Gates’s Proposed Grounds 1 through 9 alleges an unlawful search and  
20 seizure or errors in the Court’s rulings on his motions to suppress. (Dkt. No. 8-1 at 13–26.) As  
21 mentioned, Fourth Amendment claims are generally not cognizable in federal habeas motions if  
22 there was a full and fair opportunity to litigate. *Newman*, 790 F.3d at 880. Mr. Gates had that  
23 opportunity through two rounds of motions to suppress and an evidentiary hearing. *See Gates*,  
24 CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. Nos. 27–28, 72–73, 77, 85, 89, 91. Mr. Gates does not contend otherwise  
25  
26

1 in his motion to amend. (*See generally* Dkt. No. 8.)<sup>2</sup> Amending his petition to assert Proposed  
 2 Grounds 1 through 9 would therefore be futile, regardless of whether they relate back.<sup>3</sup> The  
 3 Court thus DENIES leave to amend as to Proposed Grounds 1 through 9.

4 2. Proposed Grounds 10 and 11

5 Proposed Grounds 10 and 11 assert that Mr. Gates’s trial counsel provided ineffective  
 6 assistance by failing to expressly argue that the removal of his wallet from his pocket constituted  
 7 an unlawful search and seizure. (Dkt. No. 8-1 at 27–28.) While Fourth Amendment claims  
 8 generally are barred in federal habeas proceedings, “Sixth Amendment ineffective-assistance-of-  
 9 counsel claims which are founded primarily on incompetent representation with respect to a  
 10 Fourth Amendment issue” are not. *Kimmelman*, 477 U.S. at 382–83. The Court therefore must  
 11 determine whether Proposed Grounds 10 and 11 relate back to Mr. Gates’s original § 2255  
 12 motion. The Government concedes that they do, (Dkt. No. 9 at 11), and the Court agrees:  
 13 Although Proposed Grounds 10 and 11 involve different claims, the underlying facts—officers’  
 14 removal of Mr. Gates’s wallet from his pocket—are the same as for Original Ground 1. (Dkt.  
 15 Nos. 1 at 4; 8-1 at 27–28.)

16 The substance of Proposed Grounds 10 and 11, however, indicate that amendment would  
 17 be futile because Mr. Gates cannot demonstrate ineffective assistance. An ineffective assistance  
 18 claim requires showing that counsel’s representation “fell below an objective standard of  
 19 reasonableness” and thus prejudiced the petitioner. *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668, 688,

---

21 <sup>2</sup> In Proposed Ground 9, Mr. Gates argues that the Court “did not address the issue of the alleged  
 22 unlawful seizure of petitioner’s identification as raised in petitioner’s second motion for  
 23 reconsideration.” (Dkt. No. 8-1 at 26.) But that was because Mr. Gates did not properly raise this  
 24 issue, *see United States v. Gates*, 755 F. App’x 649, 651 (9th Cir. 2018), and whether Mr. Gates  
 actually took an opportunity to litigate his Fourth Amendment claim is irrelevant to whether he  
 can now assert it, *Newman*, 790 F.3d at 880.

25 <sup>3</sup> Additionally, many of Mr. Gates’s Proposed Grounds 1 through 9 are redundant of grounds  
 26 asserted in his original § 2255 motion. (*Compare* Dkt. No. 1 at 5–8 (Original Grounds 2–4), *with*  
 Dkt. No. 8-1 at 13–20 (Proposed Grounds 1–5).) To the extent a proposed ground mirrors a  
 ground the Court has already dismissed, (Dkt. No. 6 at 4–5), amendment would be doubly futile.

1 694 (1984); *see also United States v. Jeronimo*, 398 F.3d 1149, 1155 (9th Cir. 2005), *overruled*  
2 *on other grounds by United States v. Castillo*, 496 F.3d 947 (9th Cir. 2007) (en banc). In  
3 deciding whether that happened, the Court is mindful that:

4       Judicial scrutiny of counsel’s performance must be highly deferential. . . . A fair  
5 assessment of attorney performance requires that every effort be made to  
6 eliminate the distorting effects of hindsight, to reconstruct the circumstances of  
7 counsel’s challenged conduct, and to evaluate the conduct from counsel’s  
8 perspective at the time. Because of the difficulties inherent in making the  
9 evaluation, a court must indulge a strong presumption that counsel’s conduct falls  
10 within the wide range of reasonable professional assistance; that is, the defendant  
11 must overcome the presumption that, under the circumstances, the challenged  
12 action might be considered sound trial strategy.

13 *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 690 (citation omitted).

14       Here, Mr. Gates’s trial counsel in fact did assert that officers took his wallet without  
15 permission. *See Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. Nos. 70-1 at 7, 70-4 at 5, 92 at 3. Mr. Gates’s  
16 ineffective assistance claim thus seems to be that his lawyer failed to adequately preserve for  
17 appeal any arguments based on this assertion. (*See* Dkt. No. 8-1 at 28); *Gates*, 755 F. App’x at  
18 651 (declining to consider this argument for the first time on appeal). Failing to preserve an  
19 objection for appeal is not ineffective assistance if trial counsel “could have reasonably believed  
20 that an objection would have been meritless,” *Palomar v. Madden*, 777 F. App’x 859, 861 (9th  
21 Cir. 2019), and Mr. Gates must overcome the strong presumption that counsel’s failure to raise  
22 an objection was consistent with sound trial strategy, *Morris v. California*, 966 F.2d 448, 456  
23 (9th Cir. 1991).

24       Mr. Gates cannot overcome that presumption here. Officer Gross’s narrative report on the  
25 June 7, 2015 arrest—attached as an exhibit to Mr. Gates’s own motion to suppress—states that  
26 “Gates retrieved his wallet from his pants pocket and provided his WA driver’s license to Sgt.  
“Gates retrieved his wallet from his pants pocket and provided his WA driver’s license to Sgt.  
Claeys.” *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 27-1 at 2. The Court cited that same report for the  
statement in its order denying the motion that “Gates gave his driver’s license to Sergeant  
Claeys.” *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 37 at 4. At later hearing on a second motion to

1 suppress, Mr. Gates’s counsel elicited testimony while cross examining Officer Gross that Mr.  
2 Gates voluntarily provided his driver’s license to Sergeant Claeys. *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt.  
3 No. 117 at 25–26. Later in that hearing, Mr. Gates gave the not-necessarily-inconsistent  
4 testimony that Sergeant Claeys asked if he had identification, Mr. Gates said he did and that it  
5 was in his pocket, and Sergeant Claeys reached into his pocket and took the wallet. *Gates*, CR15-  
6 0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 118 at 39–40. In its order denying the motions to suppress, the Court  
7 summarized these facts as: “Sergeant Claeys asked for identification and Gates produced it . . .  
8 Gates presented no evidence that materially alters the Court’s understanding of the facts.” *Gates*,  
9 CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 91 at 5.

10 Given this evidence in the record and the Court’s stated view of it, deciding not to press  
11 this issue is not an unreasonable strategy call for trial counsel. Mr. Gates cannot overcome the  
12 presumption that his counsel’s performance fell within the wide range of reasonable professional  
13 assistance. Thus, letting Mr. Gates amend his § 2255 motion to assert Proposed Grounds 10 and  
14 11 would be futile and leave to amend is therefore DENIED for those grounds.

15 **C. Motion to Supplement Amended Petition (Dkt. Nos. 12–14.)**

16 Mr. Gates concedes that Proposed Grounds 12 through 14 do not relate back to his  
17 original § 2255 motion, but he asserts that the one-year statute of limitations in 28 U.S.C.  
18 § 2255(f)(1) does not apply because these grounds raise claims of actual innocence, or, in the  
19 alternative, that the limitations period is equitably tolled. (Dkt. No. 12 at 2–3.)

20 To establish equitable tolling, Mr. Gates must show that (1) he has been pursuing his  
21 rights diligently and (2) some extraordinary circumstance prevented him from timely filing.  
22 *United States v. Gilbert*, 807 F.3d 1197, 1202 (9th Cir. 2015). Mr. Gates argues that the King  
23 County Correctional Facility has unconstitutionally denied him sufficient access to legal  
24 resources, so his confinement there warrants tolling the limitations period. (Dkt. No. 12 at 4–5.)  
25 The Court disagrees. Even if there were evidence establishing what Mr. Gates alleges, courts  
26 generally hold that such facts do not warrant tolling AEDPA’s statute of limitations unless there

1 is malfeasance or a long-term, total denial of access to courts.<sup>4</sup>

2 Thus, whether Mr. Gates can avoid the statute of limitations depends on whether he  
3 asserts a credible claim of actual innocence. Such a claim “serves as a gateway through which a  
4 petitioner may pass” despite the statute of limitations. *McQuiggin v. Perkins*, 569 U.S. 383, 386  
5 (2013). “[A]ctual innocence’ means factual innocence, not mere legal insufficiency.” *Bousley v.*  
6 *United States*, 523 U.S. 614, 623 (1998). The petitioner must show that “in light of all the  
7 evidence, it is more likely than not that no reasonable juror would have convicted him.” *Id.*

8 1. Proposed Ground 12

9 Proposed Ground 12 asserts that “[p]ursuant to 21 U.S.C. [§] 822(c)(3), Petitioner was  
10 statutorily exempt from the registration requirements he was charged with violating and is  
11 legally innocent of violating 21 U.S.C. [§] 844(a).” (Dkt. No. 12 at 6.) This is an argument for  
12 legal insufficiency, not factual innocence. *See Bousley*, 523 U.S. at 623. Moreover, Mr. Gates  
13 was not convicted of violating registration requirements but rather possessing controlled  
14 substances, *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 104, and although he asserts that the Aprazolam  
15 found in his possession “was not unlawfully obtained,” he concedes that he did not obtain it via a  
16 prescription from a licensed practitioner. (Dkt. No. 13 at 1.) Proposed Ground 12 thus does not  
17 assert a claim of actual innocence and is time-barred. The Court thus DENIES leave to amend as  
18 to Proposed Ground 12.

19 <sup>4</sup> *United States v. Marin-Torres*, 430 F. Supp. 3d 736, 742 (D. Or. 2020) (denying defendant  
20 access to his legal papers for five and a half months warranted tolling). *But see Muhammad v.*  
21 *United States*, 735 F.3d 812, 815 (8th Cir. 2013) (five months in special housing unit with no  
22 access to personal legal materials or law library did not warrant tolling where petitioner could  
23 still send letters and claimed no inability to contact courts or receive court mail); *Mathison v.*  
24 *United States*, 648 F. Supp. 2d 106, 112 (D. Colo. 2009) (plaintiff’s placement in a housing unit  
25 without legal materials did not warrant tolling); *Clarke v. United States*, 367 F. Supp. 3d 72, 76  
26 (S.D.N.Y. 2019) (alleged confiscation of prisoner’s legal papers during transfer between  
facilities did not warrant tolling where nothing suggested any confiscation “was intentionally  
obstructive or wrongful”); *cf. also Rosario v. United States*, 389 F. Supp. 3d 122, 134 (D. Mass.  
2019) (period spent outside the United States due to petitioner’s involuntary deportation was not  
an “extraordinary circumstance” triggering equitable tolling).



1           2. Proposed Grounds 13–17.

2           Proposed Grounds 13 through 17 all relate to Mr. Gates’s contention that his conviction  
3 must be reversed under *Rehaif v. United States*, 139 S. Ct. 2191 (2019) because the Government  
4 failed to prove that he was aware of his convicted-felon status for purposes of charging him as a  
5 felon in possession of a firearm under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). (Dkt. Nos. 13 at 2–7, 14 at 9–14.)<sup>5</sup>

6           Under *Rehaif*, the Government in a felon-in-possession case must prove that the  
7 defendant knew he was a felon when he possessed the firearm. *See* 139 S. Ct. at 2199–2200.  
8 Where, as here, a defendant raises an unpreserved *Rehaif* claim, he cannot obtain relief under a  
9 plain-error standard unless his claim is that “he would have presented evidence at trial that he did  
10 not in fact know he was a felon.” *Greer v. United States*, 141 S. Ct. 2090, 2100 (2021). “[W]here  
11 the defendant was in fact a felon when he possessed firearms, the defendant faces an uphill climb  
12 . . . The reason is simple: If a person is a felon, he ordinarily knows he is a felon.” *Id.* at 2097.

13           Here, Mr. Gates stipulated that the Government would have been able to prove that he  
14 had been convicted of felony robbery in 2012. *Gates*, CR15-0253-JCC, Dkt. No. 95 at 4. The  
15 finder of fact could have inferred from this that Mr. Gates knew he was a felon. *See Greer*, 141  
16 S. Ct. at 2097. However, Mr. Gates asserts that when he was arrested in June 2015, he thought he  
17 had completed all the requirements of the sentence for his 2012 felony conviction (other than an  
18 outstanding \$100 restitution order he did not know about) and therefore that “I was no longer  
19 considered a ‘felon’ under Washington state law and was entitled to restoration of my civil  
20 rights.” (Dkt. No. 14 at 1–2; *see also* Dkt. No. 13 at 3–7.) Moreover, he argues, in 2014 he  
21 “successfully registered to vote and obtained a voter’s packet, furthering my belief that my civil  
22 rights *had been* restored.” (Dkt. No. 14 at 2) (emphasis added).

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 <sup>5</sup> Proposed Ground 13 asserts the Government failed to prove scienter; Proposed Ground 14  
25 contends that Plaintiff’s *Rehaif* argument would warrant reversal under a plain error review  
26 standard; Proposed Grounds 15 and 17 assert that Mr. Gates would not have waived a jury trial  
had he known that the Government had to prove scienter and that his due process rights were  
thus violated; and Proposed Ground 16 asserts that the indictment was insufficient for failure to  
allege scienter. (Dkt. Nos. 13 at 2–7, 14 at 9–14.)

1 This is significant, because “[a]ny conviction . . . for which a person . . . has had civil  
2 rights restored” does not count as a felony conviction for purposes of being a felon in possession  
3 of a firearm. 18 U.S.C. § 921(20). “If a federal defendant’s firearm rights have been restored by  
4 operation of state law, his state law conviction is invalidated for the purposes of § 922(g).”  
5 *United States v. Francisco Gutierrez*, 981 F.3d 660, 662–63 (9th Cir. 2020). Thus, if Mr. Gates  
6 truly did not know that he was legally still a felon, he could indeed be innocent of the offense.

7 True, civil rights cannot be restored under Washington law without a Certificate of  
8 Discharge under Wash. Rev. Code § 9.94A.637 and a separate process under Wash. Rev. Code  
9 § 9.41.047 to restore the right to possess firearms, *State v. Hubbard*, 428 P.3d 1192, 1193 n.1  
10 (Wash. 2018). And Mr. Gates does not allege that either had occurred. However, “[a]fter *Rehaif*,  
11 it may be that a defendant who genuinely but mistakenly believes that he has had his individual  
12 rights restored has a valid defense to a felon-in-possession charge.” *United States v. Robinson*,  
13 982 F.3d 1181, 1186 (8th Cir. 2020). Thus, to the extent Mr. Gates is arguing that he  
14 affirmatively believed his civil rights had been restored—and not merely that the Government  
15 failed to allege or prove that he had scienter—he is indeed articulating an actual innocence claim.

16 Without weighing the claim’s merits, the Court finds that justice requires letting Mr.  
17 Gates amend his § 2255 motion to assert Proposed Grounds 13 and 14 only. The Court thus  
18 GRANTS Mr. Gates’s motion to amend and assert Proposed Grounds 13 and 14.

19 Proposed Grounds 15 through 17, though (to the extent not redundant of Proposed  
20 Grounds 13 and 14), assert mere legal insufficiency or constitutional violations due to the alleged  
21 *Rehaif* error. *See* Footnote 8, *above*. They are thus time-barred and leave to amend is DENIED  
22 for Proposed Grounds 15 through 17.

### 23 3. Proposed Ground 18

24 Mr. Gates asserts in Proposed Ground 18 that, because he was convicted under 18 U.S.C.  
25 § 922(g)(1), which does not specify a penalty, and because the penalty that governed his  
26 sentencing is contained in § 924(a)(2), which is not mentioned in the indictment or judgment

1 against him, he is therefore “‘actually innocent’ of the sentence that was imposed on him.” (Dkt.  
2 No. 14 at 16.) This is not a claim of actual innocence and is therefore time barred. The Court  
3 DENIES Mr. Gates’s motion to amend as to Proposed Ground 18.

4 **D. Request for Courtesy Copies**

5 Mr. Gates also asks the Court to supply him with a complete excerpt of the record and a  
6 copy of the amended § 2255 motion. (Dkt. No. 8 at 2–3.) The Court GRANTS this request and  
7 will direct the Clerk to send<sup>6</sup> Mr. Gates a copy of (1) the Government’s response to Mr. Gates’s  
8 motion, with supporting papers, which include the excerpts of record from Mr. Gates’s direct  
9 appeal (Dkt. Nos. 7–7-5); and (2) his filings containing Proposed Grounds 13 and 14 (Dkt. Nos.  
10 13–14).

11 **III. CONCLUSION**

12 For the foregoing reasons, the Court ORDERS as follows:

13 1. Original Ground 1 from Mr. Gates’s original § 2255 motion (Dkt. No. 1) is  
14 DISMISSED; the Clerk is DIRECTED to terminate the Government’s response (Dkt. No. 7).

15 2. Mr. Gates’s motion to amend his § 2255 motion is GRANTED solely for  
16 purposes of asserting Proposed Grounds 13 and 14 (Dkt. Nos. 12, 13, 14 at 1–10).

17 a. Mr. Gates need not re-file his § 2255 motion; the Court will simply treat  
18 Grounds 13 and 14 (no longer “proposed”) as the operative claims.

19 b. Within 45 days of this order, the Government will file and serve an answer  
20 to Proposed Grounds 13 and 14, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules Governing § 2255 Cases  
21 in United States District Courts. The Government must limit its answer to Grounds 13 and 14  
22 and must state whether it believes an evidentiary hearing is necessary, whether there is any issue  
23 as to abuse or delay under Rule 9, and whether Mr. Gates’s motion is barred by the statute of

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>6</sup> The Court takes judicial notice that, in *Gates v. King County Correctional Facility*, Case No.  
26 C19-1185-JCC-MLP (W.D. Wash. 2019), where Mr. Gates is the plaintiff, recent filings indicate  
that the mailing address on file for Mr. Gates in the instant case has become stale. *See Gates*,  
C19-1185-JCC-MLP, Dkt. Nos. 53–55.) The Court will have the address updated.

1 limitations. The Government must note the answer for the Court’s consideration on the fourth  
2 Friday after the answer is filed. Any reply from Mr. Gates is due no later than that noting date.

3 3. Except as stated above, Mr. Gates’s motions to amend his § 2255 motion (Dkt.  
4 Nos. 8, 12, 14 at 11–17) are DENIED.

5 4. The Clerk is DIRECTED to do the following:

6 a. Update Mr. Gates’s mailing address to match the address shown for him  
7 on the docket for Case No. C19-1185-JCC-MLP.

8 b. Send to Mr. Gates a copy of each of the following: (1) this order; (2) the  
9 Government’s response to Mr. Gates’s original motion, with supporting papers (Dkt. Nos. 7–7-  
10 5); and (3) the filings containing Proposed Grounds 13 and 14 (Dkt. Nos. 13–14.)

11 5. To the extent Mr. Gates seeks more or different parts of the record, he must file a  
12 motion clarifying what portions he wants and explaining why they are necessary.

13  
14 DATED this 10th day of December 2021.

15  
16  
17 

18 John C. Coughenour  
19 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26