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8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

10 TARYN CHRISTIAN,
11
12 Petitioner,

13 vs.

14 CLAYTON FRANK,
15
16 Respondent.

CIV. NO. 04-00743 DAE-KSC

**REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF
PETITIONER IN SUPPORT OF
PETITIONER'S MOTION TO REOPEN
HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS
PURSUANT TO FEDERAL RULE OF
CIVIL PROCEDURE 60(b)**

17 COMES NOW, Taryn Christian, Petitioner herein, by and through his counsel, Gary A.
18 Modafferi, Esq., of the Law Offices of Gary A. Modafferi, LLC, and respectfully tenders the
19 following Rebuttal Argument of Petitioner in Support of Petitioner's Motion to Reopen Habeas
20 Corpus Proceedings Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b).

21 This Rebuttal Argument is offered in addition to, and incorporates by reference,
22 testimonial evidence received by this Honorable Court on July 16, 2014 (Dkt.# 359), March 16,
23 2015 (Dkt.# 386), and March 17, 2015 (Dkt.# 387). It is also supported by the Exhibits received
24 in this matter currently numbered 1 through 115 and Petitioner's Supplemental Exhibits #116-
25 124 filed on July 24, 2015. (Dkt. #392)

26 DATED this 27th day of July, 2015.

27 /s/ Gary A. Modafferi

28 _____
GARY A. MODAFFERI, ESQ.

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 In Petitioner’s initial closing, Counsel wrote in the introduction that Philip Schmidt swore
3 to this Court that he was absolutely certain he identified Burkhart’s photograph with a PS
4 designation on photograph five days after the murder. Petitioner argued that this initial and
5 undisclosed photographic identification has torn Schmidt’s testimony and the entire
6 identification process from the truth.
7

8 Petitioner argued that the suppression of this evidence alone from the habeas court
9 undermined the integrity of the habeas proceedings. Shock, amazement, disbelief, and a healthy
10 dose of outrage are the words that best describe Petitioner’s reaction to Respondent’s binding
11 judicial admission that, “The fact that Schmidt had initially identified a photograph of Burkhart
12 was well known to Petitioner at the time of his criminal trial.”¹ This statement is untrue.
13

14 For twenty years the Respondent has failed to acknowledge that their key witness initially
15 identified Burkhart as the killer and not the Petitioner. The habeas record is replete with previous
16 denials of the existence of this newly recognized evidence. On September 9, 2008, the
17 Respondent wrote, “Moreover, there was no evidence that anyone observed Burkhart stab
18 Cabaccang or any evidence that anyone observed Burkhart at or near the crime scene on the
19 night of the murder.”²
20

21 Earlier the Respondent argued on May 4, 2006, “Here, Petitioner’s entire actual
22 innocence claim is premised upon James Burkhart being the killer. Indeed, Petitioner concedes
23 that he was at the crime scene, but that someone else killed Cabaccang. However, **Petitioner**
24 **cannot point to any physical evidence remotely establishing that Burkhart was present at**
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¹ Dkt. #391 at p. 6 of 27.

² Dkt. #148 at p. 10.

1 **the crime scene on the morning of the murder.”³** Given these absolute and unqualified
2 statements to the Habeas Courts for years, the Respondent just as of July 20, 2015 writes,
3 “Petitioner was made aware of all information related to Schmidt’s identifications during his
4 criminal trial.”⁴ With unabashed, unapologetic arrogance, the Respondent concludes “Schmidt’s
5 original photo line-up identification was well known to Petitioner during his criminal trial.”⁵
6

7 Where is the proof that this critical original identification by Phil Schmidt was ever given
8 to the Petitioner? For twenty years the courts that have presided over this prosecution have been
9 made to believe that the original identification by Phil Schmidt was of Taryn Christian.
10

11 The Ninth Circuit, based upon this false premise, characterized Phil Schmidt’s testimony
12 as a recantation. Unfortunately, the same unacceptable response was offered to this court
13 regarding the undisclosed two 4x6 photographs used by the Maui Police Department to identify
14 the murder suspect with Annie Leong. Ms. Lutey attempted to justify their non-production by
15 telling this court, “I went through personally every piece of evidence in this case. It took me days
16 to go through it to make sure that we produced everything that this court ordered from us. I have
17 never seen the two 4x6’s that Mr. Modafferi is referring to.”⁶
18

19 The Court responded, in part, to Ms. Lutey’s representations about those missing
20 photographs and the testimony generated about those photographs sting:
21

22 I’m not accusing you of lying to the court. I’m telling you somebody might
23 have it in a way that wasn’t - - you say I’ve looked at all the evidence in the
24 case. Maybe you haven’t. Maybe you thought you looked at all of the
25 evidence in the case. I’ve had that happen before where people are
26 presented by the police department with a file, and they’re told this is all
27 that there is. And then months later, sometime longer than that, Oops, there
28 actually was more, but we misplaced it. Here it is. So your suggestion that

27 ³ Dkt. #32 at p. 11 (emphasis from original document).

28 ⁴ Dkt. #391 at p. 7 of 27.

⁵ Dkt. #391 at p. 9 of 27.

⁶ Dkt. #386 at p. 24.

1 you looked through all of - - which I accept at face value - - all of the
2 materials and you didn't see any photographs, in light of what Mr.
3 Modafferi has represented about the sworn testimony, indicates to me that
there were photographs and we need to know what happened to them.⁷

4 The Court went on to conclude:

5 Well, either way it doesn't look good. One way - - I mean, if the prosecutor
6 knew that these photographs didn't exist and let her testify and perjure
7 herself in front of Judge Kobayashi, which then carried over to my hearing,
8 that these photographs in fact did exist, then that would have constituted a
9 fraud upon the court. Now, if the photographs do in fact exist, then where
10 are they? So, I mean, either way it's not looking good.⁸

11 The destruction of the bloodied Serena Seidel shorts is another part of this stunning
12 mosaic of fraud and mishandled evidence. This hearing began with the Respondent arguing that
13 some irrelevant and frankly manufactured court order and memorandum supported Respondent's
14 version that the court clerk inadvertently destroyed previously ordered withheld trial exhibits in
15 their custody. On June 2, 2000, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tengan wrote to Mary Wagner,
16 Custodian of Evidence, Maui Police Department that, "The court has entered an order requiring
17 the State, including the Maui Police Department, to hold and preserve all evidence in its
18 possession. This office is returning to MPD all evidence we presently hold pending final
19 disposition of all outstanding issues in this case."⁹

20 During the course of this hearing, it has been proven that this statement was untrue. The
21 Department of the Prosecuting Attorney did not return the evidence it had to the police or to the
22 court clerk, where it should have always have been. Instead, property logs that had to be
23 independently obtained from sources other than the Respondent have shown that for over a
24 decade, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney was in possession of multiple withheld trial
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28 ⁷ Dkt. #386 at p. 25.

⁸ Dkt. #386 at p. 26.

⁹ Exhibit 20.

1 exhibits – many containing DNA and probably the missing bloodied shorts worn by Serna
2 Seidell.¹⁰ The erasure on the court clerk’s custody card is proof that there was intent to hide the
3 fact that these exhibits were in the possession of the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney
4 when they should have been in the possession of the court clerk.¹¹
5

6 There was no alibi for James Burkhart at the time of this murder. The report written by
7 Detective Funes’ was a false report written by the officer.”¹² Again, the failure to construct or
8 disclose a written or recorded statement from either Harry Auwelo or Helen Beatty is indicative
9 of the fact that they could not say what the Respondent has insisted they could say for twenty
10 years.¹³ Instead, Petitioner has obtained written statements disputing the unsupported claim that
11 they could in fact provide such an alibi. The Respondent has done nothing to rebut that evidence.
12

13 In Banks v. Dretke, 540 U.S. 668 (2004), the Court provided that “[w]hen police or
14 prosecutors conceal significant exculpatory or impeaching material in the State’s possession, it is
15 ordinarily incumbent on the State to set the record straight.” Banks, 540 U.S. at 675-76. A rule
16 thus declaring “prosecutor may hide, and a defendant must seek,” is not tenable in a system
17 constitutionally bound to accord defendants due process. Ordinarily, we presume that public
18 officials have properly discharged their official duties.” Bracy v. Gramley, [520 U.S. 899](#), 909
19 (1997). "Our decisions lend no support to the notion that defendants must scavenge for hints of
20 undisclosed Brady material when the prosecution represents that all such material has been
21 disclosed."
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26 ¹⁰ Exhibits 27, 28, Supplemental Exhibits 116-124.

27 ¹¹ The cover-up regarding this fact is underscored not only by Reed Hayes’ testimony , the creation of Exhibit 23
and clerk Fukuda’s testimony about that document.

28 ¹² Dkt. #359 at p. 115.

¹³ Exhibit 6 – Ms. Beatty stated, “To my best recollection he was in my home when I fell asleep. I have no
knowledge of him leaving after that later in the evening because I was sleeping. I would not know if he was there.”
This admission should have been told to the Petitioner by the Respondent.

1 To demonstrate that a fraud has been committed upon the Court warranting post-
2 judgment relief under Rule 60(b)(3) or Rule 60(d)(3), Petitioner must show conduct (1) on the
3 part of an officer of the court, (2) that is directed to the “judicial machinery,” (3) that is
4 intentionally false, willfully blind to the truth, or in reckless disregard for the truth, (4) that is a
5 positive averment or concealment when one is under a duty to disclose, and (5) that deceives the
6 court. Workman v. Bell, 10 F.3d 849, 852 (6th Cir. 2001).

8 The Ninth Circuit has faithfully followed the Supreme Court’s mandate that misconduct
9 resulting in a fraud on the court shall not be tolerated. It has recognized that such fraud
10 “corrupt[s] the legitimacy of the truth-seeking process” and “defile[s] the sanctity of the court
11 and the confidence of all future litigants.” Dixon v. C.I.R., 316 F.3d 1041, 1046-47 (9th Cir.
12 2003) (finding a fraud on the court based on the actions of two IRS attorneys in covering up
13 relevant evidence, including sitting by silently as witnesses presented testimony the attorneys
14 knew to be false).

17 A party can be found to have engaged in a scheme to defraud the court and “improperly
18 influence” its decisions through “the use of misleading, inaccurate, and incomplete responses to
19 discovery requests, the presentation of fraudulent evidence, and the failure to correct false
20 impression[s] created by [witness] testimony.” Pumphrey v. K.W. Thompson Tool Co., 62 F.3d
21 1128, 1132 (9th Cir. 1995) (finding that defendant committed a fraud on the court by failing to
22 disclose the existence of favorable evidence to the plaintiff and other violations of the rules of
23 discovery and professional responsibility). In re Levander, 180 F.3d 1114 (9th Cir. 1999)
24 (finding that perjury and nondisclosure that defiled the bankruptcy court amounted to a fraud on
25 the court) (quoting 7 James Wm. Moore et al., Moore’s Federal Practice ¶ 60.33, at 515 (2d ed.
26 1978)).
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1 In Demjanjuk v. Petrovsky, a Sixth Circuit case examining whether the government
2 committed fraud upon the court in civil extradition proceedings, the court stated that “Brady
3 should be extended to cover ... cases where the government seeks [remedies] based on proof of
4 alleged criminal activities of the party proceeded against.” Demjanjuk v. Petrovsky, 10 F.3d 338;
5 353 (6th Cir. 1993).
6

7 . . . Although there are cases holding that a “plan or scheme” must exist in order to find
8 fraud on the court, we agree with Judge Wiseman that a scheme, based on a subjective intent
9 to commit fraud, is not required in a case such as this. *Reckless disregard for the truth is*
10 *sufficient*.

11 The circumstances presented by this motion provide separate layers of support for finding
12 a fraud upon this Court: **(1)** pervasive and egregious corruption at the core of the underlying
13 investigation and prosecution of Petitioner; **(2)** the repeated suppression or omission of key facts
14 by prosecutors in a manner which seriously altered this Court’s ability to properly adjudicate this
15 matter during the habeas proceedings; **(3)** flagrant disregard for the Court’s specific orders to
16 produce evidence and documents proven to be within the prosecutors possession; and (4) the
17 knowing introduction of false and misleading testimony at the habeas evidentiary hearing and
18 which continued throughout the present Rule 60(b) proceedings.
19

20 On their own, each of these circumstances have caused grave damage to the integrity of
21 our judicial process, each layer has been laminated into fraud that goes well beyond what is
22 required for this Court to exercise its inherent powers so as to effectuate justice and preserve the
23 public’s confidence in our judicial system.
24

25 The State’s prosecutors turned a blind eye to a thoroughly corrupt investigation and
26 prosecution of Petitioner and transported that corruption into the jurisdiction of this Court, and
27 then permitted pervasive dishonesty by its investigators, key witnesses and its audio expert on
28 issues going to the core of Petitioner’s constitutional claims. These prosecutors recklessly

1 withheld critical exculpatory evidence favorable to Petitioner that they knew eviscerated the
2 state's case proving Petitioner had committed no crime and intentionally deceived the Court. This
3 egregious conduct demonstrates, among other things, a willingness to manufacture evidence
4 harmful to an innocent party and an effort to deflect attention away from someone who has
5 repeatedly confessed to the murder and inculpated the State's key prosecution witness as an
6 accessory to the crime.
7

8 The habeas prosecutors' "unconscionable plan or scheme . . . designed to improperly
9 influence the court in its decisions," is further evidenced by their spoliation of critical evidence
10 that goes to the heart of the case. This includes their suppression of Schmidt's eye-witness
11 identification placing Burkhart at the scene and the suppression of Tape 11 placing Burkhart
12 within the Gas Express store refuting Respondent's false claim of alibi and the suppression of the
13 Leong identification photographs and her statements accompanying that identification. The fraud
14 worked upon this Court was comprised of numerous acts of misconduct. Although recklessness
15 is all that need be shown to establish a fraud on the Court under controlling authorities, the vast
16 majority of the conduct at issue here was clear, intentional, and willful. Together, the acts
17 amounted to a pervasive fraud driven by the goal of prevailing at whatever the cost.
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20 Importantly, this motion is about "far more than an injury to a single litigant," it is about
21 "a wrong against the institutions set up to protect and safeguard the public, institutions in which
22 fraud cannot complacently be tolerated consistently with the good order of society." Hazel-Atlas
23 Glass Co. v. Hartford-Empire Co., 322 U.S. 238, 245 (1944).
24

25 This motion is focused on a particular "species of fraud" perpetrated upon two federal
26 courts, "an effort by the government to prevent the judicial process from functioning 'in the
27 usual manner'" and a fraud that "involved perjury or nondisclosure so fundamental that it
28

1 undermined the workings of the adversary process itself.” United States v. Estate of Stonehill,
2 660 F.3d 415, 445 (9th Cir. 2011).

3 The evidence in support of this motion is substantial and necessarily detailed. This is not
4 uncommon when highly factual inquiries associated with a fraud upon the Court need to be
5 proven. For instance, the Ninth Circuit’s published decision in Stonehill and the Sixth Circuit’s
6 published decision in Demjanjuk, involve lengthy factual analyses resulting in lengthy decisions.
7 During the present Rule 60(b) evidentiary proceedings, counsel for the State and the County of
8 Maui were on notice that the prosecutors, the prosecutor's investigator and two clerks of the
9 Second Circuit court had committed perjury regarding the location and custody of the trial
10 exhibits introduced in this prosecution. The evidence is beyond clear and convincing. Despite
11 their efforts to cover up what they actually did, knowing all along that the prosecutor's office had
12 illegal possession of the trial exhibits from the time of trial, and despite that Respondent
13 flagrantly ignored the Court's specific orders to produce the chain of custody reports for the
14 exhibits, Petitioner recently acquired documents from SERI Laboratories which prove these
15 points.
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19 When judges allow police, prosecutors and other litigants to get away with such behavior,
20 it “erodes the public’s trust in our justice system, and chips away at the foundational premises of
21 the rule of law.” *Id.* at 632. “When such transgressions are acknowledged yet forgiven by the
22 courts, we endorse and invite their repetition.” *Id.* at 632.5

24 The conduct addressed in this motion is focused on governmental actors, who are
25 required to operate under a higher standard of care in light of the power they hold in our society.
26 When they fail to do so, it puts everyone at risk. A party can be found to have engaged in a
27 scheme to defraud the court and “improperly influence” its decisions through “the use of
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1 misleading, inaccurate, and incomplete responses to discovery requests, the presentation of
2 fraudulent evidence, and the failure to correct false impression[s] created by [witness]
3 testimony.” Pumphrey v. K.W. Thompson Tool Co., 62 F.3d 1128, 1132 (9th Cir. 1995) (finding
4 that defendant committed a fraud on the court by failing to disclose the existence of favorable
5 evidence to the plaintiff and other violations of the rules of discovery and professional
6 responsibility).

7
8 The Ninth Circuit has clearly defined the responsibilities of [federal] prosecutors when
9 confronted with such conduct: When a prosecutor suspects perjury, the prosecutor must at least
10 investigate. The duty to act “is not discharged by attempting to finesse the problem by pressing
11 ahead without a diligent and good faith attempt to resolve it. A prosecutor cannot avoid this
12 obligation by refusing to search for the truth and remaining willfully ignorant of the facts.”
13 Northern Mariana Islands v. Bowie, 243 F.3d 1109, 1118 (9th Cir. 2001)....The Court has
14 emphasized that the presentation of false evidence involves “a corruption of the truth-seeking
15 function of the trial process.” Agurs, 427 U.S. at 103, 96 S.Ct. 2392.

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17
18 Government attorneys have a responsibility to do justice and seek the truth. Their
19 responsibility to do so is not only imposed through Brady, but also through the Rules of
20 Professional Conduct, as well as compliance with the rules of discovery. *See, e.g.*, Morris v.
21 Yilst, 447 F.3d 735, 744 (9th Cir. 2006) (stating the obligations of the state to “collect potentially
22 exculpatory evidence, to prevent fraud upon the court, and to elicit the truth.”). Counsel for
23 Respondent had the absolute responsibility to disclose information such as this newly admitted
24 initial photographic identification by Schmidt identifying Burkhardt. *See e.g.* Brady, 373 U.S. at
25 87; Berger, 295 U.S. at 88.
26
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1 Importantly, fraud upon the court may be found in an entire course of conduct by a party,
2 rather than a single act of fraud directed at the court. For example, in Stonehill, the Ninth Circuit
3 analyzed seven categories of evidence cited as fraud upon the court. *See* 660 F.3d at 446-51. The
4 Ninth Circuit first examined each category of evidence in isolation to determine whether it
5 constituted fraud upon the court, and determined that each category, on its own, did not qualify.
6 *Id.* Importantly, the Ninth Circuit then proceeded to examine the allegations of fraud on the court
7 as a whole, analyzing whether, taken together, the misrepresentations and nondisclosures
8 “change[d] the story . . . presented to the district court.” *Id.* at 452. While the Ninth Circuit
9 ultimately found that the conduct, considered in its totality, did not constitute fraud upon the
10 court because it did not go to the central issues of the case, Stonehill makes clear that a court is
11 not limited to analyzing each alleged instance of misconduct in a vacuum, but must also consider
12 whether a party’s entire course of conduct rises to the level of undermining the judicial process
13 sufficient to constitute fraud upon the court. *Id.* at 454; see also Pumphrey (analyzing whether
14 the defendant’s course of conduct throughout the case constituted fraud on the court).

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18 Because the fraud on the Court here was so pervasive, and encompassed many of the
19 most critical issues in the case, particularly the Chambers analysis, the fraud permeated the
20 Court’s entry of judgment, and threatened the sanctity of the judicial process. This combination
21 made it nearly impossible for the Petitioner to succeed.

22
23 This Court has the power to act when our legal process has been corrupted, and it is
24 difficult to imagine a case more deserving of a decision by this Court to exercise the full measure
25 of its power. The Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit has poignantly acknowledged that there is
26 currently an “epidemic of Brady violations” and other examples of prosecutorial misconduct
27 “abroad in the land” and that “[o]nly judges can put a stop to it.” U.S. v. Olsen, 737 F.3d 625,
28

1 625 (9th Cir. 2013) (Chief Judge Kozinski dissenting) (“failing to disclose evidence casting
2 serious doubt on the reliability of the only dispositive piece of evidence in the case” should have
3 amounted to a Brady violation). When judges allow prosecutors and other litigants to get away
4 with such behavior, it “erodes the public’s trust in our justice system, and chips away at the
5 foundational premises of the rule of law.” *Id.* at 632. “When such transgressions are
6 acknowledged yet forgiven by the courts, we endorse and invite their repetition.” *Id.* at 632.
7

8 The nondisclosure of a substantial collection of tips, leads, and witness statements
9 relating to Burkhart having confessed to committing the crime and implicating Seidel as an
10 accessory in the crime—is an egregious breach of the State’s Brady obligations. Prosecutors
11 are not necessarily required to disclose every stray lead and anonymous tip, but they must
12 disclose the existence of “legitimate suspect[s],” D’Ambrosio v. Bagley, 527 F.3d 489, 498-99
13 (6th Cir. 2008), especially when such information has been specifically requested by the
14 defendant, as it was in this case. Withholding knowledge of a second suspect conflicts with the
15 Supreme Court’s directive that “the criminal trial, as distinct from the prosecutor’s private
16 deliberations, [be preserved] as the chosen forum for ascertaining the truth about criminal
17 accusations.” Kyles, 514 U.S. at 440, 115 S.Ct. 1555. By suppressing this evidence, the
18 prosecution arrogated to itself a central function belonging to the criminal jury and pursued its
19 role as adversary to the exclusion of its role as architect of a just trial. Cf. Brady, 373 U.S. at 87-
20 88, 83 S.Ct. 1194 & n. 2. In Banks v. Dretke, 540 U.S. 668 (2004), the Court provided that
21 “[w]hen police or prosecutors conceal significant exculpatory or impeaching material in the
22 State’s possession, it is ordinarily incumbent on the State to set the record straight.” Banks, 540
23 U.S. at 675-76.
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1 The Petitioner respectfully submits that the circumstances surrounding the suppression of
2 police reports documenting Phillip Schmidt and Annie Leong's identifications of James
3 Burkhart, along with the photographic evidence used during the identification process does not
4 lend themselves to an innocent explanation. Schmidt's original identification of Burkhart could
5 not have been more clearly and facially exculpatory; it directly contradicts and unhinges the
6 State's theory of the case, directly exculpating Petitioner and casting direct and substantial doubt
7 on the candor of the State's cooperating witnesses, who had every incentive to provide the State
8 with the information it wants and to withhold unfavorable facts. This is particularly true of the
9 version of events given by Serena Seidell.
10

11
12 Petitioner respectfully submits that the circumstances surrounding the suppression of Gas
13 Express "Tape 11" surveillance video that would have captured images of *all* patrons entering
14 and within the store and substitution of that tape with Tape 13, does not speak to an innocent
15 explanation.
16

17 Petitioner respectfully submits that the circumstances surrounding the suppression of at
18 least six documented interviews/ interrogations and a debriefing of James Burkhart conducted by
19 police and prosecutors, along with agents of the F.B.I., as recent as 2009, does not speak to an
20 innocent explanation.
21

22 Petitioner respectfully submits that the circumstances surrounding the suppression of the
23 identities of MCCC inmates who reportedly contacted police prior to Petitioner's trial regarding
24 Burkhart's confessions to the murder, including Jonn Iona, does not speak to an innocent
25 explanation.
26

27 Petitioner respectfully submits that the circumstances surrounding the suppression of
28 Petitioner's statements of denial to the stabbing of Cabaccang in the recorded conversation with

1 Lisa Kimmey and the production of a falsified and inaccurate transcript of Petitioner's
2 statements and representations to the jury and every court, except the Ninth Circuit Court of
3 Appeals at oral argument, that Petitioner had "confessed" not once but twice, to the murder of
4 Cabaccang, does not speak to an innocent explanation.
5

6 Petitioner respectfully submits that the circumstances surrounding the withholding of
7 Property Reports for crime scene evidence introduced as trial exhibits documenting the signed
8 chain of custody for each item of evidence, does not speak an innocent explanation. This is
9 particularly true when Respondent offers no explanation for its failure to produce the ordered
10 documents.
11

12 Petitioner respectfully submits that the circumstances surrounding the failure to properly
13 document and interview witnesses, Helen Beatty and Harry Auwelo, when prosecutors
14 proffered them as Burkhart's alibi witnesses, does not lend speak to innocent explanation
15

16 Respondent's representation to the habeas court that Schmidt had a "motive to lie"
17 because of his arrest while riding his bicycle, is a transparent rationalization of the plain fact that
18 Schmidt's identification of Burkhart as the man he saw walking away and whom Cabaccang
19 identified was his attacker, did not support the government's theory of guilt, *i.e.* that his
20 information was exculpatory. At the habeas evidentiary hearing Schmidt was providing new
21 evidence of his identification that conflicted with Government's theory of the case and continued
22 questioning would only have led to additional Brady statements. Knowing this, Respondent's
23 attack on Schmidt's credibility was duplicitous particularly in light of the evidence produced at
24 this hearing that Officer Holokai took the steak knife from the decedent's hand and hid it from
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1 trial.”¹⁶ Petitioner did not know that Burkhart had been identified through a photographic array at
2 the time of his criminal trial. To say otherwise is a fraud of enormous proportion. This fraud
3 strikes to the very heart of the reasoning that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals misapplied
4 Chambers in reversing the decision to grant Petitioner’s habeas bid. At the United States Court of
5 Appeals for the Ninth Circuit the Respondent’s legal representative told the court, **“In this case,
6 the eyewitnesses at the location identified the Petitioner, not anybody else. There’s nothing
7 to tie this third party, Mr. Burkhart to the location.”**¹⁷

8
9 At the Rule 60 hearing before this Honorable Court, Counsel for Petitioner specifically
10 asked Mr. Minatoya, “Did you ever inform the Ninth Circuit, or did you have knowledge, prior
11 to going into that argument with the Ninth Circuit, that Phil Schmidt had identified Burkhart?”¹⁸
12 Mr. Minatoya’s sworn response was “I was not aware of that.”¹⁹ Counsel for Petitioner asked, “If
13 you were aware of that, that would be something that you should of told them?”²⁰ Mr.
14 Minatoya’s response to this court was, “If I was, yes.”²¹

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16
17 Now two decades later the State’s position on this seminal issue has morphed and they
18 argue, “The fact that Schmidt had initially identified a photograph of Burkhart was well known
19 to Petitioner at the time of trial.”²² Where in the record was it ever disclosed by the State that on
20 July 17, 1995, days after the murder, Schmidt identified Burkhart? This evidence has been
21 hidden – suppressed from the Petitioner until Mr. Schmidt had the opportunity to tell this Court
22

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24
25 statement of Rob Perry describing how the second knife just disappeared. Exhibit 98 at p. 142. See also testimony of
26 Phil Schmidt stating he was 100 percent certain that Vilmar had a steak knife in his hand.

27 ¹⁵ Dkt. #386 at pp. 43 and 70.

28 ¹⁶ Dkt. #391 at p. 6 of 27.

¹⁷ Exhibit 11 at p. 5, Statement of Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Richard Minatoya.

¹⁸ Dkt. #387 at pp. 55-56.

¹⁹ Dkt. #387 at p. 56.

²⁰ Dkt. #387 at p. 56.

²¹ Dkt. #387 at p. 56.

²² Dkt. #391 at p. 6 of 27.

1 the truth. This evidence is proof of duplicity of the highest magnitude. Philip Schmidt was asked
2 about the photographic identification days after the murder and the manner in which he put “PS”
3 on photograph #5 of what would eventually be a redacted State’s trial Exhibit 56.
4

5 Counsel asked “And would you have put, “PS”?” (on photograph #5)²³ Mr. Schmidt
6 testified, “PS” yes, sir.” Counsel asked, “Now, how certain are you of that event?”²⁴ Mr. Schmidt
7 asked, “Of picking him out?”²⁵ Counsel responded, “yes.”²⁶ And Mr. Schmidt stated, “As
8 positive as I could be.”²⁷ Now Respondent argues that Petitioner knew this fact all along. If
9 Petitioner knew this fact all along then the State must have known this fact all it all along. Where
10 are the reports? Where are the statements of Mr. Schmidt? Where is the line-up with a “PS” on
11 photograph #5? The suppression of this evidence combined with trial counsel’s failure to follow
12 up with Mr. Schmidt’s testimony that he identified some other unknown person has poisoned
13 Petitioner’s bid for justice.²⁸ This failure to comply with Brady has created the false and
14 fraudulent impression that Phil Schmidt recanted his identification of the Petitioner when in fact,
15 as the Respondent now admits ... “Schmidt had initially identified a photograph of
16 Burkhart...”²⁹
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19 The habeas court and the Ninth Circuit have been grossly misled by these fraudulent
20 representations that created the lie that “none of the witnesses picked Burkhart’s picture out of
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23 ²³ Dkt. #386 at p. 43.

24 ²⁴ Dkt. #386 at p. 43.

25 ²⁵ Dkt. #386 at p. 44.

26 ²⁶ Dkt. #386 at p. 44.

27 ²⁷ Dkt. #386 at p. 44.

28 ²⁸ Mr. Schmidt truthfully testified that he did identify someone else but nobody followed up on the Burkhart identification because neither the police nor the prosecutors produced that line-up where “PS” signified his identification of Burkhart.

29 ²⁹ Dkt. #391 at p. 3. Given the recent admission that “Schmidt had initially identified a photograph of Burkhart,” the Ninth Circuit’s analysis of construing Mr. Schmidt’s habeas testimony as a recantation becomes inapplicable. If Schmidt initially identified Burkart, even if that identification was illegal, suppressed, then his habeas testimony should not be viewed as unreliable. Christian v. Frank, 595 F. 3D. 1076 at Fn. 11 (9th Cir. 2010)

1 the photographic line-ups.”³⁰ The Ninth Circuit incorrectly concluded that Mr. Schmidt’s ...
2 “recantation is especially unreliable given that it was made more than a decade after his original
3 failure to identify Burkhart as the perpetrator ...”³¹ Now the Respondent argues to this Court
4 that, “The fact that Schmidt had initially identified a photograph of Burkhart was well known to
5 Petitioner at the time of his criminal trial.”³² This statement defies all logic and reason. It also
6 changes the nature of this event from a recantation to an original identification.
7

8 **II. The Destruction and Cover-up of the Seidel shorts.**

9 The Respondent argues to this Court that the bloodied shorts worn by Serena Seidel
10 during the murderous struggle show “nothing to indicate that (the) shorts would actually be
11 exculpatory.”³³ The blood on those shorts would most likely have proven the actual killer. This
12 point was described in the truncated property report of the Maui County Police Department
13 property report which aptly describes the importance of these shorts as, “Item worn by victim’s
14 girlfriend Seidel, who struggled with the responsible.”³⁴ The Respondent’s closing fails to
15 address the reason why the report detailing the evidentiary integrity of these shorts ends in
16 1996.³⁵ The Respondent ignores the fact that they have been ordered to produce a current chain
17 of custody log for these missing shorts but they have not complied with this court order and offer
18 no rational excuse for their failure.
19
20
21

22 The Respondent begins their argument about this destroyed DNA evidence by repeatedly
23 mentioning that the “shorts were a defense exhibit during Petitioner’s criminal trial.” Court clerk
24 Moniz testified that there is no distinction in the manner in which defendant’s exhibits and
25

26 ³⁰ Dkt. #146 at p. 41.

27 ³¹ Christian v. Frank, 595 F.3d. 1076 at Fn. 11 (9th Cir. 2010)

28 ³² Dkt. #391 at p. 6 of 27.

³³ Dkt. #391 at p. 17 of 27.

³⁴ Exhibit 104.

³⁵ Id. at 104.

1 prosecutor's exhibits are handled. They are both to be preserved and maintained with the same
2 evidentiary integrity. They are supposed to be kept together.³⁶ The evidence presented to this
3 Court showed that this fundamental precept was violated when a former Maui Prosecuting
4 Attorney Investigator testified that actual trial exhibits which should have been in the exclusive
5 control of the court clerk were instead in the physical custody of the Department of the
6 Prosecuting Attorney.³⁷

8 These items included the screwdriver found under the decedent and DNA blood swabs
9 collected at the scene of the murder.³⁸ The trial exhibits that should have been in the court clerk's
10 vault instead were taken into possession by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney on February
11 21, 1996 and held for over a decade until their release on October 1, 2007.³⁹ It was during this
12 time that Magistrate Kobayashi ordered the shorts, which should have been kept together with
13 the screwdriver and blood swabs at the court clerk's vault, be turned over to the Petitioner for
14 DNA testing. It was during this time that the shorts could not be found. It was during this time
15 that the court clerk's custody log was altered or erased to delete the words "to pros." These
16 words were followed on the unaltered card by the "6/16/06 Returned."⁴⁰

19 Even though the evidence produced at hearing in this matter proved that the Department
20 of the Prosecution Attorney was wrongfully in possession of trial exhibits such as the cotton
21 swabs, that should have been kept together with defense exhibits such as the missing shorts, the
22 Respondent makes the factually incorrect argument that, "It was the court legal documents
23 section, not the prosecutor's office, that had possession of the documents. Therefore, the
24 documents could not be "returned" to the prosecutor's office, since the office had never been in
25
26

28 ³⁶ Dkt. #359 at pp. 31-32.

³⁷ Dkt. #387 at pp. 28-30.

³⁸ They also include exhibits detailed in Supplemental Exhibits 116-124.

1 possession of the evidence in the first place.”⁴¹ This argument is completely refuted by the
2 State’s own witnesses. The chain of custody logs admitted to by Margo Evans about the
3 screwdriver and the blood swabs directly contradicts this argument. These arguments are also
4 refuted by the newly obtained property reports from SERI Laboratories.
5

6 When this contradiction is augmented by the failure to produce the Maui Police
7 Department chain of custody log for the missing shorts the shifting blame underscores the fact
8 that someone caused the shorts to go missing and Ms. Moniz was made to develop a paper trail
9 to explain the disappearance of yet another grouping of Brady material. Multiple facts support
10 the fact that Ms. Moniz provided cover for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. To begin with
11 this type of destruction had never occurred before in her lengthy experience as a clerk. Evidence
12 that had been ordered withheld by a court had never been subsequently destroyed in defiance of
13 that court order.⁴²
14

15 Withheld trial exhibits should not be in the custody of the prosecutor but it was proven
16 that at in this case they were in their possession. The Respondent appears to be purposefully
17 confusing the word “documents” with the concept of court ordered withheld trial exhibits. For
18 example, they argue the “Returned to Pros” forgery is implausible because ... “the documents
19 could not be returned to the Prosecutor’s Office, since the office had not been in possession of
20 the evidence in the first place.”⁴³ This audacious statement ignores the signed chain of custody
21 logs for the screwdriver and blood swabs taken into the prosecutor’s possession on February 21,
22 1997 and maintained in their possession until Margo Evans signed them over to Susan Fukuda
23 on October 1, 2007. The same was true of the plaid jacket and other DNA swabs recently
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28 ³⁹ Dkt. #387 at p. 30.

⁴⁰ Exhibits 21 and 22.

⁴¹ Dkt. #391 at p. 20 of 27.

1 discovered by property reports that had to be obtained outside of the respondent's sphere of non-
2 compliance.

3 When prosecutor Hanano was asked about this inexplicable breach of evidentiary
4 protocol, he told this Court it was a **“mistake.”**⁴⁴ When the Court asked if he had any evidence to
5 support this speculation that multiple chain of custody logs were a **“mistake”** he said that he had
6 no evidence to support his speculation.⁴⁵ Petitioner has recently come into possession of chain of
7 custody logs of other trial exhibits such as a blood stained baseball cap, a bluish/black and grey
8 flannel jacket, clear plastic gloves, and other cotton swabs containing blood recovered from the
9 scene of the murder that were also, according to the Maui County Police Department Property
10 Report, all maintained by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney when they all should have
11 been maintained by the court clerk.
12

13 Mr. Hanano speculated that his investigator simply signed off in the wrong place on the
14 log on two separate occasions.⁴⁶ The supplemental exhibits show three more occasions where the
15 prosecutor's investigator would have signed off and improperly taken custody of withheld trial
16 exhibits on three more occasions. The court previously ordered these reports to be produced, as
17 with all property reports for trial exhibits, these reports were not produced by the State in
18 defiance of this court's order.⁴⁷ These recent developments must be viewed in context of the
19 absurd suggestion that the destruction of the Maui County Police Department Property Report
20 governing the missing shorts was probably destroyed with the shorts.⁴⁸
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26 ⁴² Dkt. #359 at pp. 36-37.

27 ⁴³ Dkt. #391 at p. 20 of 27.

28 ⁴⁴ Dkt. #386 at p. 96.

⁴⁵ Dkt. #386 at p. 96.

⁴⁶ Dkt. #386 at p. 96. See also Exhibits 27 and 28.

⁴⁷ Petitioner was able to recover these documents from the SERI Laboratory.

⁴⁸ This argument was addressed in Petitioner's Closing Argument at p. 26.

1 The Respondent's closing completely ignores relevant law that when evidence cannot be
2 disclosed because it has been completely destroyed, the government bears the "heavy burden" of
3 demonstrating the defendant was not prejudiced and sanctions are not warranted.⁴⁹ Gonzalez
4 defines an example of a permissible Rule 60 claim as one that attacks "a defect in the integrity of
5 the federal habeas proceedings."⁵⁰ How can these two legal precepts be reconciled with the
6 suppression of Phil Schmidt's photographs "PS" identification of Burkhart on July 17, 1995?
7 The suppression or the identification report that had to have been filed with that identification,
8 the destruction of the shorts, the destruction of the property reports for the shorts and all the other
9 withheld trial exhibits ordered to be turned over but never received by the defense?
10
11

12 The list is seemingly endless. It includes the two 4x6 photographs that Annie Leong used
13 to identify the suspect who entered the Gas Express minutes after the murder, it includes the
14 report that must have been filed to document such an identification, it includes the bait and
15 switch done with Tapes 11 and Tape 13. The Defense did not even know about Tape 13 until
16 2007 and when they received it. After receiving Tape 13 after Magistrate Kobayashi's order two
17 things became certain: 1) It was for the wrong day and; 2) It was very clear and intelligible. The
18 Petitioner still has not received Tape 11. While recognizing their shameless failure to produce
19 such critical Brady material, the Respondent argues "fraud ... must consist of more than garden-
20 variety non-disclosure."⁵¹
21
22

23 Is it truly their argument that this "garden variety" evidence? Their behavior has been
24 willful and contemptuous. The Respondent allegedly commissioned an investigation into the
25 missing shorts to determine who at the court clerk's office is responsible. All reason and all the
26

27
28 ⁴⁹ United States v. Carrasco, 537 F.2d. 372, 377-78 (9th Cir. 1976).

⁵⁰ Gonzalez v. Crosby, 545 U.S. 524 at 536.

⁵¹ Dkt. #391 at p. 16 of 27. Citing Pizzuto 783 F.3d. at 1181.

1 evidence received at these hearings point to the fact that they were in the possession of the
2 Department of the Prosecuting Attorney along with the other withheld trial exhibits.⁵² The
3 investigation is detailed in a two page report authored by Jeanna Kerr. While Ms. Kerr
4 interviews and inquires about the court clerk's evidence vault and the Maui Police Department
5 vault, she does not investigate her own agency where multiple property reports indicate withheld
6 trial exhibits are being inappropriately housed. While the Respondent cannot or will not produce
7 the relevant property reports to the Petitioner, the report indicates that on August 1, 2013 Ms.
8 Kerr interviewed Susan Gushiken, Judicial Assistant to Judge Cahill. Ms. Kerr wrote in her
9 report, "Gushiken stated that she knows she turned the case evidence over to Maui Prosecutor's
10 Investigator Margo Evans, from a review of her copy of the signed chain of custody log."⁵³ How
11 is it possible that Ms. Gushiken can have such a log but the Respondent cannot produce it to the
12 Petitioner? The investigation was an apparent sham.

13 **III. The Alleged Confession.**

14 The Ninth Circuit was told by the Respondent that there was no confession in this case.
15 In a remarkable reversal the Respondent now claims that Petitioner's statements during the tape
16 Kimmey calls "clearly demonstrate that Petitioner confessed to Kimmey."⁵⁴ This reversal is
17 almost as stunning as the latest reversal that, "The fact that Schmidt had initially identified a
18 photograph of Burkhardt was well known to Petitioner at the time of his criminal trial."⁵⁵ Both
19 statements are astoundingly false yet the Respondent has argued to various courts the exact
20 opposite of what is now being argued in their Rule 60 closing argument. The Respondent uses a
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27 ⁵² See Exhibit 26.

28 ⁵³ Exhibit 26 at p. 1 last paragraph.

⁵⁴ Dkt. #391 at p. 20 pf 27.

⁵⁵ Dkt. #391 at p. 6 of 27.

1 snippets from the Kimmey tape to reverse the argument that Mr. Minatoya made to the Ninth
2 Circuit Court of Appeals during oral argument.

3 The snippets are taken out of context and the Petitioner later in the conversation clearly
4 and unequivocally denied that he murdered the victim.⁵⁶ Magistrate Kobayashi noted in her
5 findings “At trial, the prosecution characterized the Christian-Kimmey tape as representing an
6 unequivocal confession”⁵⁷ Mr. Minatoya said exactly the opposite. Unfortunately, the most
7 fraudulent and damaging aspect of the use of the word confession came from the Detectives
8 when they vouched for Mr. Schmidt’s uncertain identification of the Petitioner by telling him
9 Petitioner had confessed. Mr. Schmidt told this Court:
10
11

12 I actually went to the police station to do that, and I was very concerned at
13 this point because I realized that I probably had seen Mr. Christian probably
14 multiple times at the Pukalani golf course where I would play golf and then
15 eat in the restaurant afterwards. So I was concerned, and I let them know,
16 hey, I really feel like I may have just – just because I recognize that face from
17 somewhere else but not necessarily from that evening. And they assured me
18 that my testimony was not that important, **that they had already had a
19 confession, and they had the weapon, and that I didn’t need to worry
20 about that. It was not that big of a deal.**⁵⁸

21 The use of the word confession by police in this context amounted to an
22 unforgiveable abuse of police power that would seal Petitioner’s fate with a false
23 identification.⁵⁹ Prosecuting Attorney Investigator Margo Evans said that such a
24 procedure would be completely improper.⁶⁰ Prosecutor Minatoya agreed that this
25 procedure should never happen.⁶¹ Even though Mr. Minatoya unequivocally told the

26 ⁵⁶ These unequivocal denials were not heard by the jury because of the quality of tape that was submitted into
27 evidence. However, the denials were chronicled at length in Magistrate Kobayashi’s Findings and Recommendation.
28 Dkt. # 146 at pp. 51-54.

⁵⁷ Dkt. #146 at p. 51.

⁵⁸ Dkt. # 386 at pp. 45-46.(Emphasis supplied).

⁵⁹ Counsel made these arguments at the hearing on March 16, 2015. Dkt. #386 at pp. 5-6.

⁶⁰ Dkt. #387 at p. 36.

⁶¹ Dkt. #387 at p. 60.

1 Ninth Circuit Panel that there was no confession in this case, Respondent wrote whether
2 Petitioner “confessed” is a matter of semantics. No confession, as told to the panel is
3 “no confession”. There is no nuance to the word no.
4

5 **IV. The Failure to Produce Court Ordered Evidence.**

6 The Respondent has the audacity to argue to this court that, “In fact, the evidence shows
7 that Respondent produced everything in its possession to Petitioner.”⁶² As argued earlier, the first
8 and most shocking response to this assertion is their first time response that, “The fact that
9 Schmidt had initially identified a photograph of Burkhart was well known to Petitioner at the
10 time of his original trial.”⁶³ If this were true why that fact was was never argued to the jury, the
11 Hawaii Supreme Court, the Habeas Court or to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals? Did every
12 single lawyer Petitioner had to assist him just miss this fact? It was the lack of a proven
13 identification by Schmidt of Burkhart that tilted the Chambers argument to the Respondent.
14

15 Equally important, how would Petitioner know that Schmidt had initially identified a
16 photograph of Burkhart at the time of his criminal trial unless that information was given to him
17 by the Respondent. There is no proof that this information was ever given to the Petitioner. The
18 “PS” line-up was hidden. The report that accompanied the circumstances of the “PS”
19 identification has been hidden.
20
21

22 The two photographs shown to Annie Leong have been hidden. The report of Annie
23 Leong’s identification of the suspect has been hidden.⁶⁴ Tape 11 showing the suspect and
24 providing the event that would yield the sketch from Annie Leong’s observations has been
25

26 ⁶² Dkt. #391 at p. 4 of 27.

27 ⁶³ Dkt. #391 at p. 6 of 27.

28 ⁶⁴ Interestingly, Respondent describes the false and patently unbelievable testimony of Leong at the Habeas hearing, specifically regarding the alleged presence of Icenogle and Vickers as “completely tertiary.” Dkt. #391 at p. 15 of 27. This scheme, confused the court and defense counsel into believing Petitioner’s legal interests were well represented. Accordingly, had she picked out Burkhart then the defense must have known.

1 hidden – instead Petitioner was given an irrelevant tape documenting surveillance several days
2 after the murder. The bloodied shorts of Serena Seidel have been hidden. An orchestrated legal
3 masquerade was presented to the habeas court intimating that this withheld exhibit was in the
4 possession of the court clerk when in fact – in all probability, it was improperly being held by the
5 Office of the Prosecuting Attorney along with the other withheld exhibits detailed in Petitioner’s
6 Supplemental Exhibits #116 through #124. Everything used at trial, that was ordered withheld
7 was apparently and inappropriately held by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.
8

9 In Rodriguez, the court explained the importance and purpose of motion under Rule 60
10 (b) and the concomitant importance of the discovery motions necessary to prove “some defect in
11 the integrity of the federal habeas proceedings.”⁶⁵ There the court held:
12

13 A motion under Rule 60(b) and a petition for habeas have different
14 objectives. The habeas motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 seeks to invalidate
15 the state court’s judgment of conviction. As to the motion under Rule 60(b),
16 while it is undoubtedly a step on the road to the ultimate objective of
17 invalidating the judgment of conviction, it does not seek that relief. It seeks
18 only to vacate the federal court judgment dismissing the habeas petition.
19 The grant of such a motion would not have the effect of invalidating the
20 state conviction. It would merely reinstate the previously dismissed petition
21 for habeas, opening the way for further proceedings seeking ultimately to
22 vacate the conviction. The fact that the Rule 60(b) motion contemplates
23 ultimately the vacating of the conviction is shared with every motion the
24 petitioner might make in the course of pursuing his habeas — motions to
25 compel disclosure or quash the respondent’s discovery demands, motions
26 for extension of time to answer the adversary’s motion, motions to be
27 provided with legal assistance, motions for summary rejection of the
28 respondent’s contentions. All such motions, like the motion under Rule
60(b), seek to advance the ultimate objective of vacating the criminal
conviction. But each seeks relief that is merely a step along the way. In our
view, neither these motions, nor the motion under Rule 60(b) that seeks to
vacate the dismissal of the habeas petition, should be deemed a second or
successive petition within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b).⁶⁶

65 Rodriguez v. Mitchell, 252 F.3d. 191, 198-199 (2nd Cir. 2001). The quote “some defect in the proceedings is derived from Gonzalez v Crosby, 545 U.S. 524, 532, 534 (2005).

66 Rodriguez, supra, at 198-199.

1 It is through this prism that all the hidden evidence and all the misconduct that
2 surrounded the cover-up of hiding this evidence from which this Rule 60 motion must be judged.
3 For example, the Petitioner has asked for twenty years that the statements given to police by
4 Burkhart about this murder be provided. They certainly qualify as Brady material. Even if there
5 were no specific admissions of guilt there may have been multiple leads to undercut the
6 Respondent's false claim that he had an alibi. Attorney Richard Priest detailed the existence of
7 these earlier interviews in an affidavit. These statements were never provided to Petitioner – not
8 for trial, not for appeal, not for purposes of prosecuting either the habeas petition or this Rule 60
9 (b) motion.
10

11
12 The arrogance of non-production was brought painfully to this Court's attention during
13 counsel's recent examination of Mr. Hanano about whether he had complied with this court's
14 directive to inquire and obtain Burkhart 's statements from federal authorities. On March 16,
15 2015 counsel for Petitioner asked Mr. Hanano "Did you ever make inquiry from federal
16 authorities, including the U.S. Attorney's Office or the F.B.I. about whether or not he made
17 statements regarding this murder?" His response was "No, I'm not sure. I don't think so."
18 Counsel asked "Can you recall if anyone from your office did?" Mr. Hanano testified, "I'm not
19 sure."⁶⁷ Mr. Hanano went on to tell this court "I don't know what they know."⁶⁸
20
21

22 On June 11, 2015, the United States Department of Justice wrote counsel and produced in
23 compliance with this Court's order a document that proved Mr. Hanano, Mr. Minatoya, and Ms.
24 Evans had travelled to Honolulu to participate "in an interview to assist Maui County
25 Prosecutors with the homicide investigation of Vilmar Cabaccang which occurred in 1995."⁶⁹
26

27
28 ⁶⁷ Dkt. #386 at p. 108.

⁶⁸ Dkt. #386 at p. 109.

⁶⁹ Dkt. #390 at p. 4.

1 Even though the FBI report specifically states “The interview was documented by the
2 Maui Department of the Prosecuting Attorney and will not be documented in the above files,”⁷⁰
3 the Petitioner did not receive any information about the substance or even existence of this
4 debriefing until several weeks ago. The debriefing date was January 29, 2009. Given the
5 questions asked by counsel of Mr. Hanano about this specific subject it seems apparent that he
6 should have told the court about this debriefing so that counsel could have inquired about the
7 substance of Burkhart’s statements. Respectfully, this is not the manner in which justice is
8 obtained.
9

10
11 **V. The 911 Call.**

12 The habeas court was deceived into believing that the decedent Vilmar Cabaccang did
13 not place Burkhart at the scene through a dying declaration. The Respondent writes that
14 “Petitioner places bizarre significance on Schmidt’s recent interpretation of the background noise
15 on the recording of the 911 call placed on the night of the murder.”⁷¹ The so called background
16 noise Petitioner places “bizarre significance” on is the dying declaration of the victim telling
17 those attempting to save his life that, “James Burkhart just walked off.” It was not until 13 years
18 had passed since his misidentification of Petitioner that Mr. Schmidt was allowed to hear the tape
19 in the presence of an audio expert and a defense investigator. His realization that this was his
20 misidentification had contributed to the wrongful conviction of the Petitioner.
21

22
23 At the hearing before this court Mr. Schmidt swore under oath “I’m absolutely 100
24 percent convinced that Taryn Christian was not the person I saw that night.”⁷² His identification
25 of this statement from the decedent corroborates his testimony that it was Burkhart not Christian
26

27
28

⁷⁰ Id.

⁷¹ Dkt. #391 at p. 9 of 27.

⁷² Dkt. #386 at p. 34.

1 he saw that night. This same conclusion was reached by the victim's cousin. The Respondent
2 responds that, "The alleged opinion of the victim's cousin (who is also deceased) that the victim
3 can be heard saying "James Burkhart had walked off" is equally irrelevant."⁷³ This is a
4 remarkable position considering the entire crux of the Chambers analysis in this case revolved
5 around whether Burkhart could be placed at the scene of the murder.
6

7 If there had been a disclosed photo identification of Burkhart by Schmidt then the
8 confessions to the murder by Burkhart would have been sustained by a Chambers analysis.
9 Burkhart's multiples confessions to the murder would have been heard by the jury. Equally
10 important, this evidence would have provided ample reliability to have changed the analysis by
11 both the habeas court and the Ninth Circuit. The same is true had the 911 tape been truthfully
12 presented as the intelligible and compelling evidence it represents.
13

14 The Respondent argues that the victim's cousin's declarations are inadmissible hearsay.
15 The testimony offered to this Court by former United States Border Patrol Agent Daryl Carlson
16 about these events was not inadmissible hearsay. His observations of the victim's cousin Rudy
17 Cabanting, upon hearing the tape, speak volumes to the fact that the habeas court was incorrectly
18 made to believe that the words "James Burkhart just walked off," were unintelligible. Former
19 Agent Carlson testified that Cabanting became enraged. The actual testimony received from Mr.
20 Carlson about this reaction was "... he said he was really - I'll say the word mad," so as not to
21 say a stronger word in the court here, but he was really mad because when he heard that tape and
22 he heard his cousin, who was laying on the ground dying, say "James Burkhart just walked off"
23 and he recognized his cousin's voice ... he went bananas..."⁷⁴ Retired investigator Richard
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28 ⁷³ Dkt. #391 at p. 11 of 27.

⁷⁴ Dkt. #359 at pp. 123-124.

1 Smith heard the same statement that Burkhart walked away.⁷⁵ Petitioner’s audio expert John
2 Mitchell heard the same statement.⁷⁶ Phil Schmidt testified to this Court that this statement
3 placing Burkhart at the scene “was very clear.”⁷⁷ The Respondent’s expert finally agreed at the
4 2008 habeas hearing that he could hear the last portion of the phrase “**just walked off**” but
5 would not concede that the words “James Burkhart” preceded this phrase.⁷⁸ Several witnesses,
6 with no reason to lie, have placed Burkhart at the scene through a taped dying declaration.
7 Failure to recognize this fact constitutes a continuing fraud upon the habeas court and a
8 perversion of the appropriate Chambers analysis.

11 CONCLUSION

12 On July 31, 2008, in response to the question of whether the failure to present Phil
13 Schmidt’s identification of Burkhart constituted a Brady violation, the Respondent wrote,
14 **“Third, Petitioner has failed to proven that this evidence existed prior to trial and that**
15 **Respondents failed to disclose it to Petitioner ... Thus, there is no Brady violation here.”⁷⁹
16 Seven years later Respondent wrote, **“The fact that Schmidt had initially identified a**
17 **photograph of Burkhart was well known to Petitioner at the time of his criminal trial.”⁸⁰ At**
18 the hearing on this matter this Court stated unequivocally:
19**

20 **If there was an identification of Mr. Burkhart which the prosecutors**
21 **were aware of that was not disclosed to the habeas court, that was not**
22 **disclosed to the Ninth Circuit, that could be a fraud on the Court. So**
23 **the objection is overruled.⁸¹**

26 ⁷⁵ Dkt. #386 at p. 38.

27 ⁷⁶ Dkt. #147 at p. 17.

28 ⁷⁷ Dkt. #386 at p. 38.

⁷⁸ Dkt. #147 at p. 98.

⁷⁹ Dkt. #125 at p.23.

⁸⁰ Dkt. #391 at p. 6 of 27.

⁸¹ Dkt. #359 at p. 102.

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I hereby certify that on the 27th day of July, 2015, the foregoing was filed with the
3 Clerk of the Court to be served by operation of the Court’s electronic filing system upon the
4 following:
5

6 John D. Kim
7 Prosecuting Attorney
8 County of Maui

9 Counsel for Respondent
10 Theodore I. Sakai
11 Director, State of Hawaii
12 Department of Public Safety

13 Moana M. Lutey
14 Deputy Corporation Counsel
15 corpoun@mauicounty.gov

16 /s/ Erika W. Magana

17 _____
18 Erika W. Magana,
19 An Employee of the Law Office of Gary A. Modafferi
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