

**MOTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2255 TO VACATE, SET ASIDE, OR CORRECT
SENTENCE BY A PERSON IN FEDERAL CUSTODY**

United States District Court		District Northern District of Georgia (Atlanta)	
Name (under which you were convicted): Maurice Johnson Fayne		Docket or Case No.: 1:20-cr-00228-MHC-JKL-1	
Place of Confinement: FTC Oklahoma City		Prisoner No.: 73197-019	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		Movant (include name under which convicted) V. MAURICE JOHNSON FAYNE	

FILED IN CLERK'S OFFICE
U.S.D.C. - Atlanta

MOTION

1. (a) Name and location of court which entered the judgment of conviction you are challenging **OCT 25 2023**

United States District Court
Northern District of Georgia
Atlanta Division

KEVIN P. WEIMER, Clerk
[Signature] Deputy Clerk

(b) Criminal docket or case number (if you know): 1:20-cr-00228-MHC-JKL-1

2. (a) Date of the judgment of conviction (if you know): 9/15/2021

(b) Date of sentencing: 9/14/2021

3. Length of sentence: 210 Months

4. Nature of crime (all counts):

Ct 1s: Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 1349;
Ct 2s-4s: Wire Fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 2;
Ct 5s: Bank Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1344 and 2; and
Ct 6s: False Statement to a Financial Institution, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1014 and 2.

5. (a) What was your plea? (Check one)

(1) Not guilty ☐

(2) Guilty ☒

(3) Nolo contendere (no contest) ☐

(b) If you entered a guilty plea to one count or indictment, and a not guilty plea to another count or what did you plead guilty to and what did you plead not guilty to?

Guilty on Counts 1s through 6s of the Second Superseding Indictment.

6. If you went to trial, what kind of trial did you have? (Check one)

Jury ☒

Judge only ☐

7. Did you testify at a pretrial hearing, trial, or post-trial hearing?

Yes ☐

No ☒

8. Did you appeal from the judgment of conviction?

Yes ☒

No ☐

9. If you did appeal, answer the following:

- (a) Name of court: United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- (b) Docket or case number (if you know): USCA Case Number 21-13194-J
- (c) Result: Affirmed
- (d) Date of result (if you know): 7/25/2022
- (e) Citation to the case (if you know): _____
- (f) Grounds raised:

Maurice Fayne appealed from his 210-month sentence imposed after he pled guilty pursuant to a plea agreement that required the government to recommend a 151-month sentence. Fayne argued that the government breached the plea agreement at sentencing when it emphasized his criminal history and the details of his offense and failed to meaningfully argue for the sentence that it agreed to recommend.

- (g) Did you file a petition for certiorari in the United States Supreme Court? Yes ☐ No ☒

If "Yes," answer the following:

- (1) Docket or case number (if you know): _____
- (2) Result: _____
- (3) Date of result (if you know): _____
- (4) Citation to the case (if you know): _____
- (5) Grounds raised: _____

10. Other than the direct appeals listed above, have you previously filed any other motions, petitions, or applications, concerning this judgment of conviction in any court?

Yes ☐ No ☒

11. If your answer to Question 10 was "Yes," give the following information:

- (a) (1) Name of court: _____
- (2) Docket or case number (if you know): _____
- (3) Date of filing (if you know): _____
- (4) Nature of the proceeding: _____
- (5) Grounds raised: _____

(6) Did you receive a hearing where evidence was given on your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(7) Result: _____

(8) Date of result (if you know): _____

(b) If you filed any second motion, petition, or application, give the same information:

(1) Name of court: _____

(2) Docket of case number (if you know): _____

(3) Date of filing (if you know): _____

(4) Nature of the proceeding: _____

(5) Grounds raised: _____

(6) Did you receive a hearing where evidence was given on your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(7) Result: _____

(8) Date of result (if you know): _____

(c) Did you appeal to a federal appellate court having jurisdiction over the action taken on your motion, petition, or application?

(1) First petition: Yes ☐ No ☐

(2) Second petition: Yes ☐ No ☐

(d) If you did not appeal from the action on any motion, petition, or application, explain briefly why you did not:

12. For this motion, state every ground on which you claim that you are being held in violation of the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. Attach additional pages if you have more than four grounds. State the facts supporting each ground.

GROUND ONE: Ineffective Assistance of Pretrial Counsel

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

Pretrial Counsel's failure to:

- (1) Communicate with Fayne and correctly inform him of the relevant circumstances and likely consequences of pleading guilty as opposed to proceeding to trial;
- (2) Conduct an adequate and independent pretrial investigation; and
- (3) Attempt to negotiate a favorable Plea Agreement deprived Fayne of effective assistance of pretrial counsel under the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

A Memorandum of Law in Support will be forthcoming.

(b) **Direct Appeal of Ground One:**

- (1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue?

Yes ☐ No ☒

- (2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why:

Claims of ineffective assistance of counsel are not generally raised on direct appeal.

(c) **Post-Conviction Proceedings:**

- (1) Did you raise this issue in any post-conviction motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☒

- (2) If your answer to Question (c)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition: _____

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

-
- (3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

- (4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

- (5) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," did you raise the issue in the appeal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(6) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed:

Docket or case number (if you know):

Date of the court's decision:

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available):

(7) If your answer to Question (c)(4) or Question (c)(5) is "No," explain why you did not appeal or raise this issue:

GROUND TWO: Ineffective Assistance of Sentencing Counsel

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

Sentencing Counsel's failure to:

- (1) Review, discuss and explain the PSR to Fayne prior to the sentencing hearing;
- (2) File substantive objections to the PSR; and
- (3) Argue for mitigation of punishment and object to Fayne's sentence being substantively unreasonable deprived Wiley of effective assistance of sentencing counsel and a fair and just sentence.

A Memorandum of Law in Support will be forthcoming.

(b) Direct Appeal of Ground Two:

(1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue?

Yes ☐ No ☒

(2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why:

Claims of ineffective assistance of counsel are not generally raised on direct appeal.

(c) Post-Conviction Proceedings:

(1) Did you raise this issue in any post-conviction motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☒

(2) If you answer to Question (c)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition: _____

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐

No ☐

(4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐

No ☐

(5) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," did you raise the issue in the appeal?

Yes ☐

No ☐

(6) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(7) If your answer to Question (c)(4) or Question (c)(5) is "No," explain why you did not appeal or raise this issue: _____

GROUND THREE: N/A _____

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.): _____

(b) Direct Appeal of Ground Three:

- (1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue?

Yes ☐No ☐

- (2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why:

(c) Post-Conviction Proceedings:

- (1) Did you raise this issue in any post-conviction motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐No ☐

- (2) If you answer to Question (c)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition: _____

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

-
- (3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐No ☐

- (4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐No ☐

- (5) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," did you raise the issue in the appeal?

Yes ☐No ☐

- (6) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(7) If your answer to Question (c)(4) or Question (c)(5) is "No," explain why you did not appeal or raise this issue:

GROUND FOUR: N/A

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

(b) Direct Appeal of Ground Four:

(1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why:

(c) Post-Conviction Proceedings:

(1) Did you raise this issue in any post-conviction motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(2) If you answer to Question (c)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition: _____

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion, petition, or application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(5) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," did you raise the issue in the appeal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(6) If your answer to Question (c)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed:

Docket or case number (if you know):

Date of the court's decision:

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available):

(7) If your answer to Question (c)(4) or Question (c)(5) is "No," explain why you did not appeal or raise this issue:

13. Is there any ground in this motion that you have not previously presented in some federal court? If so, which ground or grounds have not been presented, and state your reasons for not presenting them:

14. Do you have any motion, petition, or appeal now pending (filed and not decided yet) in any court for the you are challenging? Yes ☐ No ☒

If "Yes," state the name and location of the court, the docket or case number, the type of proceeding, and the issues raised.

15. Give the name and address, if known, of each attorney who represented you in the following stages of the you are challenging:
- (a) At the preliminary hearing:
Saraliene Durrett, Saraliene Smith Durrett, LLC, Suite 300, 1800 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309
-
- (b) At the arraignment and plea:
Saraliene Durrett, Saraliene Smith Durrett, LLC, Suite 300, 1800 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309
-
- (c) At the trial:
N/A
-
- (d) At sentencing:
Saraliene Durrett, Saraliene Smith Durrett, LLC, Suite 300, 1800 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309
-
- (e) On appeal:
Leigh Ann Webster, Strickland Webster, LLC -Atl, Suite 510-203, 830 Glenwood Ave., S.E., Atlanta, GA 30316
-
- (f) In any post-conviction proceeding:
N/A
-
- (g) On appeal from any ruling against you in a post-conviction proceeding:
N/A
-
16. Were you sentenced on more than one court of an indictment, or on more than one indictment, in the same court and at the same time? Yes ☐ No ☒
17. Do you have any future sentence to serve after you complete the sentence for the judgment that you are challenging? Yes ☐ No ☒
- (a) If so, give name and location of court that imposed the other sentence you will serve in the future:
-
- (b) Give the date the other sentence was imposed: _____
- (c) Give the length of the other sentence: _____
- (d) Have you filed, or do you plan to file, any motion, petition, or application that challenges the judgment or sentence to be served in the future? Yes ☐ No ☒
18. **TIMELINESS OF MOTION:** If your judgment of conviction became final over one year ago, you must explain why the one-year statute of limitations as contained in 28 U.S.C. § 2255 does not bar your motion.*
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* The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA") as contained in 28 U.S.C. § 2255, paragraph 6, provides in part that:

A one-year period of limitation shall apply to a motion under this section. The limitation period shall run from the latest of –

- (1) the date on which the judgment of conviction became final;
- (2) the date on which the impediment to making a motion created by governmental action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the movant was prevented from making such a motion by such governmental action;
- (3) the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if that right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or
- (4) the date on which the facts supporting the claim or claims presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence.

Therefore, Fayne respectfully requests that the Court grant the following relief:

Vacate his conviction and sentence to start anew; alternatively, grant an Evidentiary hearing to further prove his grounds set forth above, resolve facts in dispute, expand an incomplete record or any other relief to which this Court deems that he may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

Maurice Johnson Fayne - el
MAURICE JOHNSON FAYNE
REG. NO. 73197-019
FTC OKLAHOMA CITY
FEDERAL TRANSFER CENTER
P.O. BOX 898801
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73189
Appearing *Pro Se*

DECLARATION OF MAURICE JOHNSON FAYNE

I, Maurice Johnson Fayne, declarant herein, declare and attest to the facts in the above and foregoing Motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence by a Person in Federal Custody to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746. I placed this § 2255 Motion in the prison mailbox on the date below invoking the prison mailbox rule. See *Houston v. Lack*, 487 U.S. 266, 270 (1988).

Dated: October 20, 2023

Maurice Johnson Fayne - el
MAURICE JOHNSON FAYNE

MAURICE JOHNSON FAYNE
REG. NO. 73197-019
FTC OKLAHOMA CITY
FEDERAL TRANSFER CENTER
P.O. BOX 898801
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73189

October 20, 2023

Mr. Kevin P. Weimer
Clerk of Court
U. S. District Court
Northern District of Georgia
Atlanta Division
75 Ted Turner Drive, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3309

RE: *Fayne v. United States*
Civil No. 1:23-cv-_____
Crim No. 1:20-cr-00228-MHC-JKL-1

Dear Mr. Weimer:

Enclosed please find and accept for filing Movant's Motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to Vacate, Set Aside or Correct Sentence by a Person in Federal Custody and Memorandum of Law in Support thereof will be forthcoming. Please submit this document to the Court.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Maurice Johnson Fayne - el
MAURICE JOHNSON FAYNE
Appearing *Pro Se*

Encl. as noted

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Mr. Kevin P. Weimer
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U. S. District Court
Northern District of Georgia
Atlanta Division
75 Ted Turner Drive, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3309

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