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Grattis A. Chambers Jr.

DEC 31 2018

Appeal #2018-000900

SC Court of Appeals

I Grattis A. Chambers Jr. is seeking that the South Carolina Court of Appeals grant me an appeal and not only grant me an appeal but also relieve me of my sentence I have received. The reasons im asking of this is being provided in this letter. My sentence was handed down to me by the Honorable Judge J. Durham Cole on 5/7/2018.

Reasons Being:

Prosecutorial misconduct / Violation of the Brady Rule

Prosecutor Mr. Barry Joe Barnette handed two pages of Supplemental evidence to Honorable Judge J. Durham Cole during my plea hearing on 5/7/2018. Mr. Barnette stated "then there's two pages of Supplementals that wasn't in there, so I've added that to that, that's states Exhibit #1". Which this is noted in my transcript. The Exhibit #1 is the Spartanburg police department investigative report also called motion of discovery. Me, nor my attorney Mr. Joshua E. Schultz got a chance to view these pages. Which is an direct violation of the "Brady Rule".

Violation of Constitutional Rights / Self-Defense

I feel that my sentence of 28 years is too harsh, because I only acted in self defense which is an Constitutional right to do so. The evidence prove that that's an true fact that this terrible incident was in self defense on my behalf. The "victim" Mr. Smith was the aggressor on that terrible day. Mr. Smith, the "victim" was the first to pull weapon, shoot weapon, and to kill on this terrible day. From which I still have night mares of, Mr. Smith.

Pulled gun and shot my relative Mr. Turner during an argument between the two of them. The bullet Mr. Smith shot before anyone could react struck Mr. Turner in the forehead, please note that this took place arm length from me. After Turner fell from the gunshot wound the man, Mr. Smith turns towards me with gun in hand. That scared me to think I had to react the way I did to spare my own life. Any reasonable, brave person would have defended themselves like I did in this situation. I had no other alternative but to defend myself. The evidence and video proves that.

Insufficient Counsel

I explained from the beginning to the arresting officer and to my attorney Mr. Schultz that I simply defended myself. During plea my lawyer didn't speak on any evidence that shows this was self defense on my end. Which me and my parents asked him to speak on the facts during plea. He said he would note that he did not. Mr. Schultz also told me and my family that I couldn't argue self-defense based off the fact that I was too young to possess an weapon in the first place. Which further research shows that that's false information. That info along with other things Mr. Schultz said to me made me take a plea. If I didn't get told that false info I believe I wouldn't have received the sentence I received. Mr. Schultz also said that the jury would be charged with Murder and Manslaughter and not self-defense. Which also made me take plea.

Mr. Scholtz guaranteed that Judge J. Durham Cole would only give 15 years to me if not less. He said they discussed it, Mr. Scholtz never went over motion of discovery with me during the 5 months he was my attorney before the plea. Mr. Scholtz only gave me half of the motion of discovery and didn't give the rest because I took an plea. With these things being said I feel that my counsel was insufficient which resulted in my sentencing. I feel that I shouldn't serve time for defending myself which is an Constitutional right. Also I've got a letter from Steven D. Tuttle with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the letter states that he checked the 1993 Act No. 184 but didn't locate the Great Seal. With this being said I believe I am unlawfully incarcerated due to the fact that Voluntary Manslaughter doesn't have Great Seal which make it not valid. I wish my sentence to be immediately vacated due to the issues.

Thank you
Sincerely
Geoff A Chambers Jr.

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SC Court of Appeals

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