

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

OTIS LEAVELL WILLIAMS,

Petitioner,

v.

CASE NO. 18-3098-SAC

PAUL SNYDER,

Respondent.

**ORDER OF DISMISSAL**

This matter is before the Court on a petition for habeas corpus filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Petitioner proceeds pro se and in forma pauperis.

The Court has examined the petition under Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Habeas Corpus and finds the present petition is a second or successive application for relief.

**Background**

Petitioner challenges his conviction in the District Court of Sedgwick County, Kansas, in Case No. 05-CR-1796. That conviction was the subject of an earlier habeas corpus petition filed in this Court in Case No. 18-3052-SAC. The Court dismissed that matter on November 21, 2018, as time-barred. Petitioner did not appeal.

**Analysis**

This matter is governed by the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA). Under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b), enacted as part of the AEDPA, "the filing of a second or successive § 2254 application is tightly constrained[]." *Case v. Hatch*, 731 F.3d 1015, 1026 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2013). "Before a court can consider a second claim, an applicant

must first 'move in the appropriate court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider the application.'" *Id.* (quoting 28 U.S.C. §2244 (b)(3)(A)). "Section 2244's gate-keeping requirements are jurisdictional in nature and must be considered prior to the merits of a § 2254 petition." *Id.* at 1027 (citing *Panetti v. Quarterman*, 551 U.S. 930, 942-47 (2007)); see also *In re Cline*, 531 F.3d 1249, 1251 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008) ("A district court does not have jurisdiction to address the merits of a second or successive ... § 2254 claim until this court has granted the required authorization.").

Where, as here, a petitioner presents a successive petition without the prior authorization required by statute, the district court may consider whether the matter should be transferred to the court of appeals under 28 U.S.C. § 1631, rather than dismissed, if the transfer would be in the interest of justice. See *In re Cline*, 531 F.3d at 1252.

Because petitioner's earlier application, presented in Case No. 18-3052-SAC, was dismissed as time-barred, the Court concludes the present matter should be dismissed rather than transferred. The dismissal of this matter does not prevent petitioner from seeking authorization from the Tenth Circuit.

Finally, because this matter is dismissed for lack of jurisdiction, the Court declines to enter a certificate of appealability.

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COURT ORDERED this matter is dismissed as a second or successive application for habeas corpus. No certificate of appealability will issue.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

DATED: This 24th day of September, 2019, at Topeka, Kansas.

S/ Sam A. Crow

SAM A. CROW

U.S. Senior District Judge