

United States Court of Appeals  
for the Fifth Circuit

United States Court of Appeals  
Fifth Circuit

**FILED**

June 19, 2025

Lyle W. Cayce  
Clerk

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No. 24-30709

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff—Appellee,*

*versus*

PALMA JEFFERSON, JR.,

*Defendant—Appellant.*

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Application for Certificate of Appealability  
the United States District Court  
for the Eastern District of Louisiana  
USDC No. 2:24-CV-1846  
USDC No. 2:19-CR-174-1

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ORDER:

Palma Jefferson, Jr., federal prisoner # 37950-034, moves this court for a certificate of appealability (COA) to appeal the district court's denial of his 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion. Jefferson filed the motion to challenge his 180-month sentence for his convictions of various drug trafficking offenses and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He contends that his counsel at trial and on direct appeal rendered ineffective assistance in several respects. He also asserts that the trial court denied him a fair trial by limiting the scope of his suppression hearing and by being impartial.

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A COA may issue only if the movant has made “a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); *Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003). When the district court denies relief on the merits, a movant must show that reasonable jurists would find the district court’s assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong. *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).

Jefferson fails to make the requisite showing. *See id.* Accordingly, his motion for a COA is DENIED.

/s/JAMES E. GRAVES, JR.  
JAMES E. GRAVES, JR.  
*United States Circuit Judge*