SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S26O0700

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

PAUL LAMOR BRUCE v. MICHAEL L. KARPF, JUDGE et al.

Petitioner failed to comply with Georgia Supreme Court Rule 36(2) by failing to provide an explanation as to why jurisdiction lies in this Court. Accordingly, this petition is dismissed.

All the Justices concur.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

I certify that the above is a true extract from the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia.
Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto affixed the day and year last above written.

, Clerk

App 1A

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Paul Bruce, Plaintiff
GDC# 1001912497, Inmate Number

Lower Court Case No. 16-CR-0271
16-CR-0543 · 16-CR0610

vs.

Michae L. KARPF,
ELISA Gillis,
, Defendant(s)

Nature of Action:
Habeas Corpus
2017 SUS-6414

[redacted]

PART I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON YOUR CONVICTION

1. Name and location of prison in which you are now confined: COFFEE Correctional Facility

2. Sentence you are now serving: (30) Thirty year.

Name and location of court which imposed sentence: Walker County Court

Approximate date your sentence will be completed: 2046

3. The indictment number or numbers (if known) upon which, and the offense or offenses for which sentence was imposed:
   a. 16-CR-0271
   b. 16-CR-0543
   c. 16-CR0610

4. Give the approximate date upon which sentence was imposed and the terms of the sentence:
   a. November 16, 2016
   b.

c. _____

5. Check whether a finding of guilty was made after a plea of:

Guilty
Guilty but mentally ill
✓ Nolo contendere
Not guilty

6. If you were found guilty after a plea of not guilty, check whether the finding was made by:

Jury
✓ Judge only

7. Did you appeal from the judgment of conviction or the imposition of sentence?

(Yes) No

8. If you did appeal, answer the following:

a. The name of each court to which you appealed:

1. Walker County Court
2. Walker County Court
3. Supreme Court of Georgia

b. The result in each such court to which you appealed:

1. First-out-of-Time Appeal dismissed
2. Second-Out-of-time appeal (no response) (Pending)
3. Clerical error's, Clerk put the wrong year on the case, made it-Out of time

c. The approximate date of each such result:

1. June 18 2018
2. July 8th 2025-Out time appeal refiled-HouseBill #176, Title-5#
3. July 24 2024

d. If known, citations of any written opinion orders entered pursuant to such results:

1. Cook v State
2. On May 14, 2025 the out time appeal was put back in HouseB.ll #176
3. Crosson v Conway

PART II: OTHER LAWSUITS

9. **OTHER THAN LAWSUITS ALREADY LISTED** in questions 3 through 8, have you ever begun or are you now beginning other lawsuits in federal or state courts dealing with the same facts involved in this action or relating to your imprisonment?

Yes (No)

Appn

10. If your answer to number 9 is "Yes," describe the lawsuit in the space below. (If there is more than one lawsuit, describe the additional lawsuits on another piece of paper, using the same outline for each lawsuit.)

a. Parties to the previous lawsuit:

Plaintiffs: n/a

Defendants: _____

b. Court (If federal court, name the district. If state court, name the court and county) :

c. Docket Number: n/a

d. Name of judge to whom case was assigned: _____

e. Date on which you filed lawsuit: _____

f. Date of disposition, if any, of lawsuit: _____

g. What was the lawsuit about? _____

h. What was the outcome of the lawsuit? (For example, was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending?)_____

i. Citations, if known, to any written opinions or orders in the lawsuit: _____

PART III: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

11. Is there a prisoner grievance procedure at the institution in which you are presently confined?

(Yes) No

12. If your answer to number 11 is "Yes," please answer the following:

a. Did you present the facts relating to your complaint in the institution's prisoner grievance procedures? Yes (No)

b. If your answer to (a) above is "Yes,"

What steps did you take? _____

What was the result? _____

c. If your answer to (a) above is "No," explain why not: The prison can not do anything about this matter

Appx

13. Tell what you have done, other than what you have described in question 12, to bring your complaints to the attention of prison officials. In doing so, give dates, places, and names of persons talked to.

Motion For Reconsideration
motion For clerical error
motion For Certiorari
Mandamus
Memorandum OF Concern
Judicial Commission Complaint
Letters to the Attorney General
state Bar

14. Names and approximate dates of entry and exit, and locations of all prisons and jails in which you have been incarcerated:

Jackson Prison 12-2016 1-2017, COFFEE corrections 1-2017 - still here

15. Have you sought the relief you are now requesting in another court? If so, in which court did you file your pleading? Include the lower court case number, the county the pleading was made in, the date the filing was made, and the trial judge to whom the case was assigned.

Certiorari in the united states supreme Court #25-5349
Habeas corpus Appeal S25H0085

What was the disposition?

denied

PART IV: STATEMENT OF CLAIMS

16. List the name and address of each plaintiff in this lawsuit: Michael L. Karpf (Judge)

17. List below for each defendant, the defendant's full name, official position, and place of employment. Attach additional paper if necessary.

Full Name **Official Position** **Place of Employment**

Appx

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

18. Describe each and every **FACT**—no opinions or views, only the actual events—supporting and explaining the basis for the lawsuit you have filed. **DESCRIBE HOW EACH DEFENDANT IS INVOLVED.** Include also the names of other persons involved, dates and places. If you intend to allege a number of related claims, you should number and set forth each claim separately. **DO NOT GIVE ANY LEGAL ARGUMENT OR CITE ANY CASES OR STATUTES.** (You may attach additional sheets of paper if necessary.)

Petitioner filed for habeas Corpus in 2019 After Lengthly delays on Aug. 3. 2022 Petitioner had a Evidentiary hearing, However the Judge informed petitioner of a real time issue and he wanted to get Plea Counsels testimony, today and at the next hearing the next Court, the following month or two, However after (14) Fourteen months and several letters and memorandum of Concern no Answer from Any one, Petitioner filed A mandamus to proceed in his habeas corpus case and present his evidence, After 3 month of filing a mandamus Petitioners Habees was dismissed on All Grounds, stated All grounds lacked merritt and he is to believe Counsel over the Petitioner, Petitioner never had a chance to provide Any thing on his behalf. the Judge told the Petitioner and clearly asked if he would let the Judge get Plea Counsels testimony and At the next setting I would be Allowed to present my side, and present my evidence see transcript page, that never took Place Petitioner would not have Allowed that to happen the Judge has told A lie.

19. List the name and present address of every person who you believe was a witness to the facts set forth in number 18 and **BRIEFLY** state what each person knows (from having seen, heard, etc.) concerning what happened.

Michael h. Karpf Judge
101 south Peterson Avenue Suite B-18 Douglas GA 31533
Elisa Gillis Clerk 101 South Peterson Avenue suite B-18 Douglas 31533
the Judge is Aware of his Actions AS well AS the clerk they all work together.

APPA

20. Please describe any legal argument you wish to make. You may add separate sheets of paper if necessary. It is not necessary that you present legal argument in order to obtain the relief to which you are entitled.

Petition has a Legal right to be heard and present any and all evidence to prove his Petition however that never took place. Petitioner has the burden to make out his Case and Prove the satisfaction of a habeas Corpus Judge Without this process, clearly is a disobedience of writ to be heard and should clearly be Remanded back to the lower court for Relief to be Granted on Petitioners behalf. Petitioner habeas was dismissed because he filed a Mandamus. Busy Court dockets do not excuse Compliance with Rules and statutes of law, Granting Petitioner Relief is only the correct way to Proceed Petitioners, Habeas has been at issue for over six years. See "Rogers v Johnson", SAlim v Salim, Bailey v Barker.

21. **Briefly** state the specific relief requested against each party. This means to state exactly what you want the court to do for you. **DO NOT MAKE ANY LEGAL ARGUMENTS. DO NOT CITE CASES OR STATUTES.**

Grant Petitioner Habeas Relief, Remand this case back to the lower court for Relief Also Petitioner requests Compensatory damage be Awarded for injuries in the Amount of twenty five thousand and also All Petitioners filing fees in the amount of twevel hundred dollars, And whatever the court sees fit for the Petitioner to find Relief in this long process that has not thus far Rendered any Relief or Justice, Only six years of waiting.

APPX

BRUCE, PAUL

Printed By: BRISCOE, GERALDINE

GDC ID: 1001912497

Spendable Amount	Reserved Amount	Stimulus Amount	Receipts On Hold	Funds Balance	Obligations/Court Charges
$0.00	$9.97	$0.03	$0.00	$10.00	$725.88

RECEIPTS

No receipts for this offender in the past **60** days.

WITHDRAWALS

No withdrawals for this offender in the past **60** days.

OBLIGATIONS

Paid Status: P = Partially paid; Y = Paid in full; R = Reversed; W = Written off

Date	Location Incurred	Obligation Type	Payable To	Obligation Detail	Amount	Paid
03/01/2026	CENTRAL ACCT-OFFENDER TRUST	MONTHLY PROCESSING FEE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS	Monthly Processing Fee for 03/2026	$1.00	
02/25/2026	CENTRAL ACCT-OFFENDER TRUST	FEDERAL COURT FILING FEE	FEDERAL COURT - BRUNSWICK DIVISION	RECORD ID = 37650041. CASE #5:26-CV-00069-LGW-BWC CIVIL ACTION NO:5:26-CV-69 FILED 2/18/26	$350.00	
02/13/2026	CENTRAL ACCT-OFFENDER TRUST	INDIGENT LOAN	COFFEE CORR FACILITY	RECORD ID = 37636270. POSTAGE 02/06/2026	$0.74	
02/06/2026	CENTRAL ACCT-OFFENDER TRUST	INDIGENT LOAN	COFFEE CORR FACILITY	RECORD ID = 37628391. INDIGENT SUPPLIES 2/4/26	$0.52	
02/05/2026	CENTRAL ACCT-OFFENDER TRUST	INDIGENT LOAN	COFFEE CORR FACILITY	RECORD ID = 37625325. INDIGENT POSTAGE 01/29/26	$0.74	
02/04/2026	CENTRAL ACCT-OFFENDER TRUST	INDIGENT LOAN	COFFEE CORR FACILITY	RECORD ID = 37623941. INDIGENT POSTAGE 02/01/26	$1.03	
02/04/2026	CENTRAL ACCT-OFFENDER TRUST	INDIGENT LOAN	COFFEE CORR FACILITY	RECORD ID = 37623919. INDIGENT POSTAGE 02/01/26	$0.74	
02/02/2026	CENTRAL ACCT-OFFENDER TRUST	FEDERAL COURT FILING FEE	FEDERAL COURT - BRUNSWICK DIVISION	RECORD ID = 37619306. CASE 5:26-CV-00069-LGW-BWC	$350.00	
02/01/2026	CENTRAL ACCT-OFFENDER TRUST	MONTHLY PROCESSING FEE	GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS	Monthly Processing Fee for 02/2026	$1.00	W
01/14/2026	CENTRAL ACCT-OFFENDER TRUST	INDIGENT LOAN	COFFEE CORR FACILITY	RECORD ID = 37490965. 01/12/26 INDIGENT POSTAGE	$5.04	

COURT CHARGES

No court charges for this offender in the past **60** days.

COURT CHARGE MODIFICATIONS

No court charges modifications for this offender in the past **60** days.

Judicial Qualifications Commission
State of Georgia

December 10, 2025

CONFIDENTIAL – TO BE OPENED BY ADDRESSEE ONLY

VIA U.S. MAIL

Paul Bruce
Coffee Correctional Facility
1153 Liberty Street
Nicholls, GA 31554

Re: JQC Complaint No. 2025-1770 – Notification of Dismissal

Dear Mr. Bruce,

This correspondence serves as notice that review of the above-referenced Complaint, which you submitted against Judge Micharl Karpf, has been completed pursuant to Judicial Qualifications Commission ("JQC") Rule 17(A).

The disciplinary system of the JQC serves many purposes: to promote public confidence in the integrity, independence, and impartiality of the Georgia judiciary; to protect the public; and to encourage judges in Georgia to maintain high standards of ethical conduct both on and off the bench. One of the most important ways the JQC Investigative Panel contributes to fulfilling the JQC's mission is through review of complaints, and if warranted, the subsequent investigation and prosecution of allegations of judicial misconduct.

Judicial misconduct involves the willful or persistent violation of the provisions contained in the Georgia Code of Judicial Conduct by a person holding judicial office, one authorized to perform judicial functions, or a judicial candidate. Some allegations, even if true, do not constitute judicial misconduct. For example, as a general rule, complaints about a judge's rulings (e.g., determinations related to the introduction or exclusion of testimony or evidence; setting of bond; issuance of arrest or search warrants; attorney fees; ex parte emergency relief; temporary orders relating to custody, visitation, or child support, etc.) will often be dismissed, as the JQC cannot act as an appellate court and has no authority to intervene in court cases or to change judges' discretionary rulings.

App B

The allegations presented in your Complaint involve discretionary rulings, or are speculative, and thus do not constitute violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Statements of opinion and conclusory allegations do not constitute facts and are not sufficient to warrant further investigation by the JQC Investigative Panel. Accordingly, and pursuant to JQC Rule 17(A), the above-referenced Complaint has been dismissed.

Please be advised that information regarding this Complaint will remain confidential pursuant to JQC Rule 11(A), unless or until an exception pursuant to JQC Rule 11(E)(1) or 11 (E)(2) becomes applicable.

Future correspondence, if any, should be directed to info@gajqc.gov.

Sincerely,

Investigative Panel Staff
Judicial Qualifications Commission

CV/as

Judicial Qualifications Commission
State of Georgia

December 10, 2025

CONFIDENTIAL – TO BE OPENED BY ADDRESSEE ONLY

VIA U.S. MAIL

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Coffee Correctional Facility
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Nicholls, GA 31554

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App B

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Sincerely,

Investigative Panel Staff
Judicial Qualifications Commission

CV/as

APP B

(P R O C E E D I N G S)

THE COURT: Mr. Bruce, are you there?

MR. BRUCE: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: You're Paul Bruce. Correct?

MR. BRUCE: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: And this is your habeas hearing. I'm Judge Karpf and I'm presiding. Are you ready to proceed?

MR. BRUCE: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Mr. Bruce, we have run up against a real time problem in this hearing, all these hearings. There are probably six or eight others that we haven't done yet. And so, Mr. Patten is here as a witness. I don't know whether you called him or whether the Attorney General called him, but regardless of who called him what I'd like to do is to take his testimony today and then continue the hearing to the next calendar so you can finish presenting your case. I want to see if you're agreeable to that, but apparently I don't have any other option but that.

MR. BRUCE: Will I be able to question Mr. Patten?

THE COURT: Oh, yes. And then present the rest of your case at the next hearing.

A That was -- that was November 15th, 2016. It was the same day we had a jury selection. We were commencing trial on the aggravated child molestation case. You were sitting beside me at table in the courtroom. The district attorney was at the neighboring table. The judge was at the bench.

Q Okay. Well, my understanding we were picking the jury and that was all that you had told me. But you had also gave me the yellow pad of paper to write on if I had questions to ask you.

A Right.

Q Was that correct?

A That's correct.

Q And I wrote on the paper "I do not understand what is going on".

A And I explained to you there in the courtroom what was going on, just as we had done many, many times before at the jail in preparation for that very moment.

Q No, sir, you didn't. We picked a jury. That was all my knowledge was that day --

MR. OLDHAM: Objection. Argumentative.

THE COURT: Mr. Bruce, you can't argue with him. You'll get a chance to say your side of it when you testify. This is your chance to ask him questions.

MR. BRUCE: Okay.

App C

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

Paul Bruce,

GDC#: 1001912497,
Petitioner,

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2019-Sur-S-644

Steve upton. warden,
COFFEE County Court,

Respondent(s).

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF MANDAMUS

Comes Now your Petitioner, pro se, to petitioner this Court for a Writ of Mandamus directed to the Respondent(s) who have failed to perform their legal duty due to the Petitioner. In support thereof Petitioner shows:

1.

Respondent(s) {is/are} employed by COFFEE County Court / steve upton in the official capacity of Judge, warden and as such {is/are} subject to the jurisdiction of this Court.

2.

Petitioner avers that the Respondent(s) is/are under a duty to act pursuant to their legal duty as described in Continue. petitioners Court Case in that they {have/failed to} proceed in that manner, Petitioner Has been on hold since Aug 4. 2022.

3.

Petitioner avers that he has a clear right to the remedy sought, he has exhausted all available

Filed in Office this
6th day of March, 2024
Clerk, Superior Court & State Court
Coffee County, Georgia

(APP D)

administrative grievance procedures and has no other remedy at law. If this Court does not order relief the Petitioner will be irreparably harmed.

4.

Petitioner prays this Court will ORDER the Respondent to: proceed on this Habeas Corpus and grant petitioner his writ to a fair trial, Grant relief.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court issue a mandamus nisi to the Respondent requiring that he show cause as to what the requested relief not be granted. Petitioner prays for a hearing date in line with OCGA 9-6-26 not less than 10 days and not more than 30 days from the petition.

Signed and respectfully submitted this 11e day of Feduary, 2024

Paul Bruce
Name:
GDC#: 1001912497
Coffee Correctional Facility
1153 N. Liberty Street
Nicholls, Georgia 31554

VERIFICATION

The undersigned, on this day shown above, being duly sworn does declare under penalty of perjury that the facts avered in the aforegoing mandamus petition are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and believe.

P Bruce
Name:

Sworn to and subscribed before me:

this 15 day of February, 2024.

Appx B

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S25H0085

May 6, 2025

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

PAUL BRUCE v. STEVE UPTON, WARDEN

The habeas court denied Paul Bruce's habeas petition. In order to obtain appellate review of that order, he was required to timely file both a notice of appeal in the habeas court and an application for a certificate of probable cause to appeal in this Court. See OCGA § 9-14-52 (b). Although Bruce timely filed a notice of appeal in the habeas court, he did not timely file an application for a certificate of probable cause to appeal in this Court. Because the failure to comply with OCGA § 9-14-52 (b) is jurisdictional, this matter is dismissed. See *Crosson v. Conway*, 291 Ga. 220, 222 (728 SE2d 617) (2012); *Fullwood v. Sivley*, 271 Ga. 248, 250 (517 SE2d 511) (1999).

Peterson, CJ, Warren, PJ, and Bethel, Ellington, McMillian, LaGrua, Colvin, and Pinson, JJ, concur.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

I certify that the above is a true extract from the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia.
Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto affixed the day and year last above written.

, Clerk

APP E

SUPREME COURT of GEORGIA
Nathan Deal Judicial Center
330 Capitol Avenue S.E., Room 1100
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-3470
Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Docketing Date: July 24, 2024

Paul Bruce
GDC # 1001912497
Coffee Correctional Facility
1153 North Liberty Street
Nicholls, Georgia 31554

Case No. S25H0085 PAUL BRUCE v. STEVE UPTON, WARDEN

This is to notify you that your application for certificate of probable cause to appeal denial of the writ of habeas corpus has been received and docketed in this Court and assigned the docketing date and case number shown above.

You must also file a notice of appeal with the habeas trial court clerk if you have not already done so. See OCGA § 9-14-52. That clerk will transmit the record in your case to this court so that it can consider the application.

When your application is ruled on, you will be notified immediately.

Important Rule Requirements and Information

Notice of Amended Rules – Effective immediately, the Supreme Court of Georgia amended its Court Rules by revising Rule 4 (Requirements for Attorneys Practicing Before the Supreme Court), Rule 10 (Briefs of the Parties: Time of Filing), Rule 20 (Briefs: Page Limitations), Rule 23 (Amicus Briefs), Rule 24 (Supplemental Briefs), Rule 50 (Oral Argument), and Rule

~~APPEAL~~ APP F
~~H-20~~

5-15-25

Clerk

On July 3. 2024 my Habeas Corpus was denied and I filed all my paper work with your Court. Certificate of Probable cause and Certifacte of intrested person and I recieved a letter from the Court whichis inclosed on July 24 2024 saying my Certificate of Probable cause had been filed in your Court followed by a case number #525H0085? Please tell me this is a mistake because I followed all the requirements And I filed the Appeal in superior Court and Certificate of Probable cause with your Court I have Also included the papers I filed that made the superior court dismiss my case and that was a motion for mandamus because my case was Suppose to resume the next Calender Court but Almost 2 years later it had not moved in any direction I wrote a memorandum of Concern, a letter to mr Peters Attorney General no answer. Could you please help me in this matter

Paul Bruce

#21 APP G

IN The Court OF Appeals Supreme Court
STate OF Georgia

Paul Bruce Petitioner	*	S25H0085 CASE NO.
STeve upton Respondant	*	

motion to Correct Clerical Error

Comes NOW petitioner Prose Paul Bruce Requesting to move this Court to correct Clerical Error § state v Hart 263 GA App 858 7-SE2d 164 (2003) Petitioner Points out that the Clerk has docketed this CASE S25H0085 with the wrong year, thus making this case out OF time, See ATTached Form AS Evidence.

Singed this 8 day of July 2025 (S) P B
(P) Paul Bruce
(GDC#) 1001912497

Exp 1/27/26

~~APP G~~
APP G

Supreme Court
State of Georgia
NATHAN DEAL JUDICIAL CENTER
Atlanta 30334

July 18, 2025

RE: S25H0085. Paul Bruce v. Steve Upton, Warden.

Mr. Bruce,

We are in receipt of your motion to correct clerical error. The S25 denomination refers to the term the case is docketed to and not the actual filing date. Additionally, the judgment was entered on May 6, 2025, and the remittitur returning jurisdiction to the lower court issued on May 21, 2025. Accordingly, the Supreme Court no longer has jurisdiction over the case and lacks the authority to act on your recent submission.

Sincerely,

Therese S. Barnes, Clerk

App G
~~App G~~ ~~H 23~~

of a motion to suppress hearing regarding the statements, the fact is that there is nothing to show that trial counsel was ineffective. Thus there is no basis upon which to find ineffective assistance of trial counsel or trial court error.

5. In ground 6 petitioner claims he was denied his rights because he was deprived of bail. Trial counsel testified that he applied for bail and it was denied by the trial court. This contention is a bare allegation with no evidence to show ineffective assistance of trial counsel or trial court error. There is no merit to this contention.

6. Ground 7 harks back to grounds 4 and 5 regarding the *Jackson-Denno* hearing. Petitioner claims he was never informed of the "suppression hearing." The testimony of trial counsel refutes this allegation. He testified that the hearing was held in open court after the jury was selected and prior to the beginning of trial. Petitioner was present for the hearing. This claim has no merit and affords no relief in habeas.

7. Finally, in ground 8 petitioner claims he was denied the right to appeal. The plea transcript clearly shows that the trial court advised petitioner of his right to appeal. "Once I sign those...you will have 30 days to file an appeal." Moreover, there is no evidence to show that petitioner asked his counsel to file an appeal. Petitioner has failed to carry his burden of proof in this regard and this claim also lacks merit.

For the foregoing reasons the petition for writ of habeas corpus is denied.

Appeal Rights

If Petitioner desires to appeal this order, he must file an application for a certificate of probable cause to appeal with the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia within thirty (30) days of the date this order is filed. Petitioner must also file a notice of appeal with the Clerk of Superior Court of Coffee County within the same thirty (30) day period. As well, petitioner is notified that Supreme Court Rule 26.1 requires the filing of a Certificate of Interested Person which must be filed separately at the time of the initial submission to the Court.

[redacted]
APPH

Considering the totality of the circumstances, including that the jury had already been selected and the case was ready for trial, the adverse result of the *Jackson-Denno* hearing, the recitation of explicit testimony from child witnesses in open court, the guilty plea affidavit and the guilty plea transcript, the court concludes that petitioner's guilty was knowing and intelligent. The trial court made a similar finding. ("The Court finds he understands the consequences of the guilty pleas, there is a factual basis for the pleas, the pleas are freely and voluntarily made...."). Thus the plea satisfied the requirements recently announced in *Green v. State,* 318 Ga. 610 (2024). See also *McClain v. State*, 311 Ga. 514 (2021); *Oliver v. State*, 308 Ga. 652 (2020). Based on this evidence, the court finds that trial counsel was not ineffective as alleged by petitioner. This ground is without merit.

3. Next petitioner alleges that trial counsel failed to adequately investigate the case or to provide proper advice to him and as a result his plea was involuntary. Again, trial counsel's testimony describes his actions including the fact that he had been unable to interview the child witnesses prior to trial, but that he had been able to quash the statement of one of them. He also testified to the *Jackson-Denno* hearing and the results thereof. On the other hand, petitioner has not shown what else trial counsel should have done. Under these circumstances the court is satisfied that petitioner has failed to carry his burden under *Strickland.* Moreover, based on trial counsel's testimony the court finds that he was not ineffective. This contention lacks merit.

4. In grounds 4 and 5 petitioner claims his counsel was ineffective for not challenging the failure of police to administer *Miranda* warnings prior to a statement he gave, and as a separate claim that the failure to administer the warnings was a violation of rights by police. These claims fail. Mr. Patten testified that petitioner gave an incriminating statement to police. Prior to the beginning of trial the court held a *Jackson-Denno* hearing for the purpose of determining whether the statement would be admissible. The trial court ruled that the statement would be admitted, although there is no transcript of this hearing in the record in this case. Nevertheless, according to trial counsel it was at that point that petitioner decided to enter a guilty plea. Although it is apparent that petitioner misunderstood that a *Jackson-Denno* hearing is the functional equivalent

App H

Additional material from this filing is available in the Clerk's Office.