

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
ALABAMA, NORTHERN DIVISION

Quacy Tom Wright v. United States of America

Wright · No. 2:17-CV-680-WKW · Decided February 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama denied Quacy Tom Wright’s petition seeking information about court registry funds and his Rule 60(d)(3) motion alleging fraud on the court. The court held that the Freedom of Information Act does not apply to the federal judiciary, found that no relevant funds were held in the court registry, and concluded that Wright’s challenges to his criminal conviction were improper Rule 60 motions and could not be brought in that court.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	W. Keith Watkins
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division
DECIDED	February 17, 2026
DOCKET	2:17-CV-680-WKW
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner in a closed 28 U.S.C. § 2255 proceeding moved for information concerning court registry funds and sought relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(d)(3) based on alleged fraud on the court. The district court denied both motions.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court memorandum opinion and order; precedential status not identified in the source.
PARTIES	Quacy Tom Wright v. United States of America

TOPICS

federal habeas corpus

successive petitions

post-conviction relief

civil procedure

subject matter jurisdiction

PRACTICE AREAS

Federal post-conviction litigation

Federal civil procedure

Freedom of Information Act

Court registry funds

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Wright was entitled to an accounting of court registry funds under the Freedom of Information Act, federal statutes governing deposits into court, or other cited authorities.
2. Whether the federal judiciary is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.
3. Whether Wright could use Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(d)(3) to challenge his criminal conviction based on alleged fraud on the court.
4. Whether Wright's merits-based and ineffective-assistance claims had to be treated as a successive 28 U.S.C. § 2255 petition and, if so, whether they could be brought in the Middle District of Alabama rather than the court that imposed sentence.

HOLDINGS

1. The federal judiciary is not an agency subject to the Freedom of Information Act because the statute expressly excludes the courts of the United States from the definition of agency.
2. Wright was not entitled to an accounting because the Middle District of Alabama held no monetary funds in its registry relating to his civil or criminal proceedings, and he identified no sound authority requiring that court to account for funds allegedly held by other courts.
3. Rule 60(d)(3) does not provide relief from a judgment in a criminal case.
4. A motion challenging the merits of a prior federal judgment or seeking to add a new ground for relief is properly treated as a habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 rather than a Rule 60(d)(3) motion.
5. A § 2255 motion must be filed in the court that imposed the sentence; Wright therefore could not bring his criminal-conviction challenges through this Rule 60(d)(3) motion in the Middle District of Alabama.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Based on the statute’s explicit statement, Article III courts are exempt from the FOIA.”

“Rule 60 “provides for relief from a final judgment, it does not provide for relief from a judgment in a criminal case.””

“These challenges cannot be brought through a Rule 60(d)(3) motion or in the United States District for the Middle District of Alabama.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Wright's closed civil action originated with a 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion challenging the revocation of his supervised release. He sought an accounting of funds allegedly held in federal court registries in connection with his criminal and civil proceedings, but the court found that no funds had been imposed or deposited in the relevant proceedings. He also challenged his criminal conviction in the Southern District of Alabama through a

Rule 60(d)(3) motion alleging fraud on the court, unconstitutional searches, lack of forensic testing, ineffective assistance of counsel, and judicial failures.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Wright previously filed a § 2255 motion challenging the Middle District of Alabama's jurisdiction to revoke his supervised release; that motion was dismissed with prejudice. He later filed the petition concerning court registry funds and attempted to raise a Rule 60(d)(3) fraud-on-the-court challenge to his criminal conviction in the Southern District of Alabama. The Middle District of Alabama denied both motions, concluding that the FOIA did not apply to the federal judiciary, that it held no pertinent registry funds, and that the Rule 60(d)(3) motion was an improper successive § 2255 challenge that could not be brought in that district.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- United States v. George, 188 F. App'x 926, 927 (11th Cir. 2006)
- Cano v. United States, 796 F. App'x 647, 648-49 (11th Cir. 2019)
- Gonzalez v. Crosby, 545 U.S. 524, 532 (2005)
- United States v. Bueno-Sierra, 723 F. App'x 850, 854 (11th Cir. 2018)
- United States v. Wright, Case No. 2:13-CR-171 (M.D. Ala., filed Oct. 16, 2013)
- United States v. Wright, Case No. 1:07-CR-79 (S.D. Ala. Apr. 7, 2008)
- United States v. Wright, Case No. 1:07-CR-79 (S.D. Ala. Apr. 4, 2024), ECF No. 107

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