

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PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court memorandum opinion and order; precedential status not identified in the source.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

OPINION

QUACY TOM WRIGHT v. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PER CURIAM.

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

QUACY TOM WRIGHT,)
Reg. No. 09779-003,)) Petitioner,))
v.) CASE NO. 2:17-CV-680-WKW
) [WO]
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
) Respondent.)

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Before the court are Petitioner Quacy Tom Wright’s (1) Petition for Information Regarding Court Registry Funds (Doc. # 30); and (2) Rule 60(d)(3) Motion for Relief From Judgment Based on

Fraud on the Court (Doc. # 33). For the reasons to follow, both motions will be denied. A. Petition for Information Regarding Court Registry Funds Mr. Wright seeks an order that (1) directs the Clerk of Court to provide a full, itemized accounting of any funds or instruments held in the Court Registry Investment System (CRIS) or similar registries related to his criminal and civil proceedings in the United States District Courts for the Middle District of Alabama and Southern District of Alabama and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit; (2) produces and preserves all related, relevant records; (3) recognizes Petitioner's standing as a fiduciary beneficiary; and (4) refers this petition as a judicial misconduct complaint. (Doc. # 30 at 5.) Plaintiff cites multiple federal sources of authority, including 28 U.S.C. §§ 2041–2045 (Chapter 129, titled “Moneys Paid into Court”), 5 U.S.C. § 552 (Freedom of Information Act), 31 U.S.C. § 3302 (titled, “Custodians of Money”), Fed. R. Civ. P. 67 (titled, “Deposit Into Court”), and 28 U.S.C. §§ 351–64 (Chapter 16, titled “Complaints Against Judges and Judicial Discipline”). The Government filed a response in opposition (Doc. # 32), asserting that the petition should be denied for two reasons. First, it argues that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, does not apply to the federal judicial branch and that, therefore, the FOIA “is an inappropriate vehicle for Wright’s request.” (Doc. # 32 at 3–4.) Second, it contends that the CRIS neither was “involved in Mr. Wright’s criminal fees or forfeiture” nor a depository for any funds in this civil case and that, therefore, “there is no ‘accounting’ to provide him.” (Doc. # 32 at 3–4.) Based upon a thorough review of the petition, as well as all supporting and opposing arguments, the petition will be denied. Mr. Wright has not presented grounds that justify relief, and arguments not explicitly addressed in this Memorandum Opinion and Order also are rejected as meritless. First, the FOIA pertains to claims involving a federal agency’s improper withholding of records requested in accordance with agency rules. See §§ 552(a)(3)(A), (4)(B)(1). The federal judiciary is not classified as an agency under the FOIA and, therefore, is not subject to its provisions. See 5 U.S.C. § 551(1)(B) (providing that an “‘agency’ . . . does not include . . . the courts of the United States”). Based on the statute’s explicit statement, Article III courts are exempt from the FOIA. Therefore, Mr. Wright’s FOIA request, to the extent he makes one, will be denied.¹ Second, no moneys have been imposed or paid into the court in connection with this closed civil action, which began with the filing of a 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion. (Doc. # 2.) This motion challenged the court’s jurisdiction to revoke Mr. Wright’s term of supervised release in *United States v. Wright*, Case No. 2:13-CR-171 (M.D. Ala., filed Oct. 16, 2013) (“underlying revocation proceeding”), and it was dismissed with prejudice.² (Docs. # 23, 24.) Furthermore, no fines were imposed, and no moneys were deposited with this court in connection with the underlying revocation proceeding. (See Doc. # 2-1); see also 28 U.S.C. § 2041 (governing deposits of “moneys paid into any court of the United States”). This court holds no monetary funds in its registry pertaining to Mr. Wright’s civil case and criminal cases in this district. Hence, Mr. Wright’s request for a detailed accounting of funds held in this court’s registry with respect to his proceedings in this district will be denied. With respect to ¹ In his reply, Mr. Wright asserts that the “[t]he Government’s response improperly

reframes” his petition “as a FOIA dispute” and that he “does not seek records under FOIA.” (Doc. # 33 at 4.) However, because Mr. Wright expressly references FOIA in his petition, it was appropriate for the Government to address FOIA. Regardless, Mr. Wright’s reply effectively moots any argument regarding a potential FOIA request. 2 Mr. Wright was serving a term of supervised release following his conviction and sentence imposed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama. In that court, he pled guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. See *United States v. Wright*, Case No. 1:07-CR-79 (S.D. Ala. Apr. 7, 2008), ECF No. 70. In 2008, he received a sentence of 65 months’ imprisonment, with a five-year term of supervised release upon release from imprisonment. See *id.* In October 2013, his supervision was transferred to this district. (See Doc. # 22 at 1–2.) In his proceedings in other courts, Mr. Wright has cited no sound reason or authority for this court to provide the requested accounting. Third, Mr. Wright requests the referral of his petition as a judicial complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 351. However, according to his petition, he already has initiated this complaint. (Doc. # 30 at 3, 4; Doc. # 30-1.) Based on the foregoing, it is ORDERED that Petitioner Quacy Tom Wright’s Petition for Information Regarding Court Registry Funds (Doc. # 30) is DENIED. B. Rule 60(d)(3) Motion for Relief from Judgment Based on Fraud on the Court Mr. Wright’s reply also attempts to raise a Rule 60(d)(3) motion for relief from the judgment alleging fraud on the court. Citing Rule 60(d)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Mr. Wright challenges his criminal conviction in the Southern District of Alabama. See *supra* note 2. His arguments include newly discovered evidence of unconstitutional searches, an alleged absence of forensic testing, claims of ineffective assistance of counsel during the district court proceedings, and accusations of judicial failure to preserve the integrity of those proceedings. (See, e.g., Doc. # 33 at 1–3.) This motion must be denied. Rule 60(d)(3) is part of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. While Rule 60 “provides for relief from a final judgment, it does not provide for relief from a judgment in a criminal case.” *United States v. George*, 188 F. App’x 926, 927 (11th Cir. 2006) (*per curiam*) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)) (additional citations omitted)). A motion challenging a “‘federal court’s previous resolution of a claim on the merits,’ or which ‘seeks to add a new ground for relief’ does not constitute a proper Rule 60(d)(3) motion, but rather a habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.” *Cano v. United States*, 796 F. App’x 647, 649 (11th Cir. 2019) (*per curiam*) (quoting *Gonzalez v. Crosby*, 545 U.S. 524, 532 (2005)). In *Cano*, the purported Rule 60(d)(3) motion alleged that “the federal agents and government attorneys involved with his trial perpetrated a fraud on the court” and that “the trial judge ratified this fraud, improperly instructed the jury, and impermissibly imposed a forfeiture judgment.” *Id.* at 648. The Eleventh Circuit held that the petitioner’s Rule 60(d)(3) motion, which “allege[d] defects in his underlying conviction” and followed a prior § 2255 motion, was “correctly treated . . . as a successive § 2255 petition.” *Id.* at 649. Claims for ineffective assistance of counsel also fall within the habeas category. See *United States v. Bueno-Sierra*, 723 F. App’x 850, 854 (11th Cir. 2018) (*per curiam*) (holding that “although couched in terms of Rule 60 and a fraud on the court,” the

petitioner's motions were "more properly regarded as second or successive § 2255 motions" due to the introduction of new claims, including ineffective assistance of trial counsel). Furthermore, any § 2255 motion must be filed in "the court which imposed the sentence." 3 § 2255(a). 3 Mr. Wright filed a writ of error coram nobis in his criminal case in the Southern District of Alabama, which was dismissed with prejudice. See *United States v. Wright*, Case No. 1:07-CR-79 (S.D. Ala. Apr. 4, 2024), ECF No. 107 (Judgment). That writ raised claims similar to those Mr. Wright alleges in his Rule 60(d)(3) motion. See *id.*, ECF No. 106 at 6 (Report and Recommendation); see also *id.*, ECF No. 106 at 7 (observing that "[t]here is no indication in the record that the arguments advanced by Wright were unavailable to him in the past. Indeed, it appears each of these arguments could have Mr. Wright's Rule 60(d)(3) motion, styled as alleging fraud on the court, asserts defects in his criminal judgment due to purported fraud by the investigating, prosecuting, and judicial authorities, as well as ineffective assistance by his attorneys who defended him in the trial court. These are merits-based challenges seeking another opportunity to overturn the judgment of conviction. Moreover, the criminal judgment he attacks was imposed by the United States District Court in the Southern District of Alabama. These challenges cannot be brought through a Rule 60(d)(3) motion or in the United States District for the Middle District of Alabama.⁴ Based on the foregoing, it is ORDERED that Petitioner Quacy Tom Wright's Rule 60(d)(3) Motion for Relief from Judgment Based on Fraud on the Court (Doc. # 33) is DENIED. DONE this 17th day of February, 2026. /s/ W. Keith Watkins

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

been raised in a § 2255 petition while he was in custody, but no such petition was filed.".) On appeal, the Eleventh Circuit affirmed the judgment. See *id.*, ECF No. 118 at 6–7 (holding that "[t]he government is clearly right as a matter of law that the district court correctly found that Wright failed to show that his claims were previously unavailable to him through a § 2255 motion" and that "the government is clearly right as a matter of law that the district court correctly found that Wright failed to provide a sound reason for not raising the claim earlier"). 4 This Memorandum Opinion and Order expresses no opinion on whether Mr. Wright is entitled to any post-conviction relief in the Southern District of Alabama.