

CONNECTICUT APPELLATE COURT

State v. Washington

(AC 47703) (Conn. App. May 19, 2026) · No. AC 47703 · Decided May 19, 2026

SUMMARY

The Connecticut Appellate Court affirmed the denial of Jayvell J. Washington’s motion to withdraw his guilty plea to assault in the second degree and criminal possession of a firearm. The court held that Washington failed to show prejudice from alleged ineffective assistance of counsel and failed to substantiate his claim that the state suppressed material evidence in violation of Brady v. Maryland. The court also declined to review an inadequately briefed claim that the facts did not support a guilty verdict.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Connecticut Appellate Court
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Suarez, J.; Cradle, C. J.; Bishop, J.
JURISDICTION	Connecticut
DECIDED	May 19, 2026
DOCKET	AC 47703
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The defendant appealed from a judgment of conviction entered after the Superior Court denied his motion to withdraw an unconditional guilty plea to assault in the second degree and criminal possession of a firearm.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A decision on a motion to withdraw a guilty plea under Practice Book § 39-27 is reviewed for abuse of discretion. The court makes every reasonable presumption in favor of the trial court's correctness and asks whether the trial court correctly applied the law and reasonably could have reached its conclusion. Alleged Brady violations present questions of law subject to plenary review, but the defendant still bears the burden of proving all required Brady elements.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published and precedential Connecticut Appellate Court opinion
PARTIES	Jayvell J. Washington v. State of Connecticut

TOPICS

plea bargaining

ineffective assistance

discovery criminal

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PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the trial court abused its discretion by denying withdrawal of the guilty plea under Practice Book § 39-27 (4) based on alleged ineffective assistance of counsel for advising the defendant to plead guilty before receiving complete discovery.
2. Whether the trial court abused its discretion by denying withdrawal of the guilty plea under Practice Book § 39-27 (2) on the ground that the plea was involuntary because the state allegedly suppressed exculpatory or impeachment evidence in violation of Brady v. Maryland.
3. Whether the defendant separately established that the known facts could not sustain a guilty verdict; the court declined to review this inadequately briefed claim.

HOLDINGS

1. A defendant seeking to withdraw an accepted guilty plea under Practice Book § 39-27 (4) on the basis of ineffective assistance must provide facts proving deficient performance and a sufficient connection between counsel's alleged ineffectiveness and the plea's involuntary or unintelligent character, including prejudice showing that the defendant would have insisted on going to trial. Bare assertions that counsel failed to obtain complete discovery do not satisfy that burden.
2. The defendant failed to establish that his guilty plea was involuntary under Practice Book § 39-27 (2) because his alleged Brady claim consisted of conclusory assertions and did not prove that the prosecution suppressed favorable, material evidence after a defense request or that the alleged nondisclosure prejudiced his plea decision.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The defendant failed to make any showing, apart from bare assertions, that, as a result of his counsel’s ineffective assistance, he was prejudiced and that he would have insisted on going to trial if he had obtained complete discovery from the state.”

“In order to prove a Brady violation, the defendant must show: (1) that the prosecution suppressed evidence after a request by the defense; (2) that the suppressed evidence was favorable to the defense; and (3) that the evidence was material.”

“Accordingly, the defendant has failed to satisfy his burden of proving that his guilty plea was made involuntarily pursuant to Practice Book § 39-27 (2).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On or about July 23, 2017, the defendant shot Eugene Rogers, causing injury, and, having previously been convicted of a felony, was allegedly prohibited from possessing a firearm. The defendant sought discovery,

including exculpatory and impeachment material, beginning in 2017, and discovery remained incomplete when he pleaded guilty in March 2024. He later claimed that victim medical records contained a statement that the victim did not know who shot him, but he offered no evidence establishing that the state possessed and suppressed the records, or that earlier disclosure would have caused him to reject the plea and proceed to trial.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The defendant was charged by substitute information in the Superior Court for the judicial district of Bridgeport, geographical area number two. He pleaded guilty in March 2024 pursuant to an agreement for a total effective sentence of five years, to run concurrently with a previously imposed forty-year sentence. Before sentencing, he filed a self-represented motion to withdraw his plea based on ineffective assistance of counsel, incomplete discovery, and an alleged Brady violation. The trial court denied the motion, sentenced him, and the Connecticut Appellate Court affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83, 87, 83 S. Ct. 1194, 10 L. Ed. 2d 215 (1963)
- State v. Washington, 345 Conn. 258, 262–64, 284 A.3d 280 (2022)
- State v. Christopher R., 222 Conn. App. 763, 779, 306 A.3d 1117 (2023), cert. denied, 348 Conn. 946, 308 A.3d 34 (2024)
- State v. Roberts, 227 Conn. App. 159, 170–71, 320 A.3d 989 (2024), aff’d, 354 Conn. 480, A.3d (2026)
- State v. LaMotte, 210 Conn. App. 44, 60–62, 268 A.3d 162 (2022)
- State v. Anthony D., 320 Conn. 842, 846, 851, 855, 857, 860, 134 A.3d 219 (2016)
- State v. Morant, 13 Conn. App. 378, 384–85, 536 A.2d 605 (1988)
- State v. Lameirao, 135 Conn. App. 302, 326–27, 42 A.3d 414, cert. denied, 305 Conn. 915, 46 A.3d 171 (2012)
- State v. Lynch, 193 Conn. App. 637, 660, 220 A.3d 163 (2019), cert. denied, 335 Conn. 914, 229 A.3d 729 (2020)
- State v. Gay, 108 Conn. App. 211, 219–20, 947 A.2d 428, cert. denied, 288 Conn. 913, 954 A.2d 186 (2008)
- State v. Sidiropoulos, 237 Conn. App. 262, 341 n.44, 351 A.3d 871, cert. denied, 354 Conn. 923, A.3d (2026)
- State v. Emmanuel C., 233 Conn. App. 156, 168–69, 172–73, 338 A.3d 1177 (2025)
- State v. Rish, 17 Conn. App. 447, 458, 553 A.2d 1145, cert. denied, 211 Conn. 802, 559 A.2d 1137, cert. denied, 493 U.S. 818, 110 S. Ct. 72, 107 L. Ed. 2d 38 (1989)
- State v. Pollitt, 199 Conn. 399, 414, 508 A.2d 1 (1986)
- United States v. Ruiz, 536 U.S. 622, 629, 122 S. Ct. 2450, 153 L. Ed. 2d 586 (2002)
- Walcott v. Commissioner of Correction, 238 Conn. App. 545, 584, A.3d (2026)
- United States v. Moussaoui, 591 F.3d 263, 286 (4th Cir. 2010)

- State v. Reid, 277 Conn. 764, 789, 894 A.2d 963 (2006)

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