

THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Pleadro J. Scott v. Warden Ronnie Quinn, et al.

No. 3D26-0514 · No. No. 3D26-0514 · Decided March 25, 2026

SUMMARY

The Florida Third District Court of Appeal dismissed Pleadro J. Scott’s habeas corpus petition alleging ineffective assistance of appellate counsel. The court held that the petition was untimely because Scott’s conviction and sentence had become final more than thirteen years earlier, exceeding the applicable two- and four-year limits under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.141(d)(5).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Third District Court of Appeal of the State of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Chief Judge SCALES; Judge MILLER; Judge GOODEN
JURISDICTION	Florida Third District Court of Appeal
DECIDED	March 25, 2026
DOCKET	No. 3D26-0514
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original habeas corpus proceeding in which petitioner sought a writ based on alleged ineffective assistance of appellate counsel during his direct appeal.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Pleadro J. Scott v. Warden Ronnie Quinn, et al.

TOPICS

- habeas corpus
- state post-conviction relief
- ineffective assistance
- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Scott's petition alleging ineffective assistance of appellate counsel was timely under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.141(d)(5).

2. Whether the petition should be dismissed because it was filed more than four years after the judgment and sentence became final on direct review.

HOLDINGS

1. A petition alleging ineffective assistance of appellate counsel on direct review is untimely when filed more than two years after the judgment and sentence became final, absent the rule's specific exception, and in no event may it be filed more than four years after finality.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A petition alleging ineffective assistance of appellate counsel on direct review must not be filed more than 2 years after the judgment and sentence become final on direct review unless it alleges under oath with a specific factual basis that the petitioner was affirmatively misled about the results of the appeal by counsel. In no case may a petition alleging ineffective assistance of appellate counsel on direct review be filed more than 4 years after the judgment and sentence become final on direct review.” (2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner Pleadro J. Scott challenged the effectiveness of his appellate counsel during his direct appeal. His conviction and sentence became final more than thirteen years before this petition was filed. The court also noted that this was the third time Scott had sought habeas relief on the same general basis.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Scott filed a habeas petition alleging ineffective assistance of appellate counsel. The court noted that he had previously pursued the same type of relief three times and that his conviction and sentence became final more than thirteen years earlier. The court dismissed the petition as untimely.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Scott v. State, 248 So. 3d 98 (Fla. 3d DCA 2017)
- Scott v. State, 425 So. 3d 637 (Fla. 3d DCA 2025)
- Scott v. State, 114 So. 3d 393 (Fla. 3d DCA 2013)
- Scott v. State, 123 So. 3d 1147 (Fla. 2013)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Third District Court of Appeal State of Florida Opinion filed March 25, 2026. Not final until disposition of timely filed motion for rehearing. _____ No. 3D26-0514 Lower Tribunal No. F08-8259 _____ Pleadro J. Scott, Petitioner, vs. Warden Ronnie

Quinn, et al., Respondents. A Case of Original Jurisdiction – Habeas Corpus. Pleadro J. Scott, in proper person.

James Uthmeier, Attorney General, for respondents. Before SCALES, C.J., and MILLER and GOODEN, JJ. PER CURIAM. Petitioner Pleadro J. Scott petitions this Court for a writ of habeas corpus, alleging that his appellate counsel was ineffective during his direct appeal. This is the third time he has done so. See Scott v. State, 248 So. 3d 98 (Fla. 3d DCA 2017); Scott v. State, 425 So.

3d 637 (Fla. 3d DCA 2025). But his conviction and sentence became final after direct appeal over thirteen years ago. See Scott v. State, 114 So. 3d 393 (Fla. 3d DCA 2013); Scott v. State, 123 So. 3d 1147 (Fla. 2013).

For that reason, his petition is untimely and must be dismissed. See Fla. R. App. P. 9.141(d)(5) (“A petition alleging ineffective assistance of appellate counsel on direct review must not be filed more than 2 years after the judgment and sentence become final on direct review unless it alleges under oath with a specific factual basis that the petitioner was affirmatively misled about the results of the appeal by counsel.

In no case may a petition alleging ineffective assistance of appellate counsel on direct review be filed more than 4 years after the judgment and sentence become final on direct review.”). Petition dismissed. 2