

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MISSOURI, EASTERN DIVISION

Maxwell Navarre Lee v. Michael Shewmaker

Lee v. Shewmaker · No. 4:26-CV-00257 RHH · Decided May 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri addresses Maxwell Navarre Lee’s habeas corpus petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. After reviewing Lee’s response to an order to show cause regarding timeliness, the court concludes that his Missouri Rule 24.035 post-conviction motion was timely filed and directs that a case management order issue, while permitting the respondent to raise timeliness as an affirmative defense.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Eastern Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
DECIDED	May 20, 2026
DOCKET	4:26-CV-00257 RHH
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought federal habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. After ordering Petitioner to show cause why the petition should not be dismissed as time-barred, the Court determined that the response warranted further proceedings and ordered issuance of a Case Management Order.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Maxwell Navarre Lee v. Michael Shewmaker

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- state post-conviction relief
- statute of limitations
- affirmative defenses
- post-conviction relief

PRACTICE AREAS

- federal habeas corpus
- state post-conviction relief
- civil procedure
- criminal procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Petitioner's response to the show-cause order concerning the timeliness of his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 petition warranted continued proceedings rather than dismissal at that stage.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On June 26, 2015, Maxwell Navarre Lee pleaded guilty in St. Francois County, Missouri, to two counts of second-degree felony murder and received two concurrent life sentences. He did not appeal. He later pursued Missouri Rule 24.035 post-conviction relief, asserting that a motion filed in the City of Farmington Municipal Court on December 23, 2015, was timely because the municipal court was required to transfer it to the circuit court. The state circuit court found the motion timely, and the Missouri Court of Appeals affirmed.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner pleaded guilty in Missouri state court to two counts of second-degree felony murder and received concurrent life sentences. He did not directly appeal. The Missouri circuit court denied his Rule 24.035 post-conviction motion after an evidentiary hearing, and the Missouri Court of Appeals affirmed. In this federal habeas action, the Court issued a show-cause order concerning timeliness; after reviewing the response, it declined at that stage to dismiss and ordered a Case Management Order.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- State v. Lee, No. 15SF-CR00456-01 (24th Jud. Cir. 2015)
- Lee v. State, No. 22SF-CC00033 (24th Jud. Cir. 2024)
- Lee v. State, No. ED113140 (Mo. Ct. App. 2025)
- Nicholson v. State, 151 S.W.3d 369 (Mo. banc 2004)

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