

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH
CAROLINA

Lance L. Miles, Jr. v. Donnie Stonebreaker

Miles · No. 5:24-cv-6046-BHH · Decided January 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of South Carolina adopts the Magistrate Judge’s report and recommendation, grants the respondent’s motion for summary judgment, and denies Lance L. Miles, Jr.’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The court also denies a certificate of appealability.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Bruce H. Hendricks
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
DECIDED	January 20, 2026
DOCKET	5:24-cv-6046-BHH
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought federal habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. After a magistrate judge recommended granting Respondent's summary-judgment motion and denying the petition, the district court reviewed the recommendation for clear error because no objections were filed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	In the absence of specific objections to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation, the district court reviews the recommendation for clear error rather than conducting de novo review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Lance L. Miles, Jr. v. Donnie Stonebreaker

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- summary judgment
- post-conviction relief
- appellate procedure
- standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- civil procedure
- appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the magistrate judge's recommendation to grant Respondent's motion for summary judgment and deny the § 2254 petition contained clear error when no party filed specific objections.
2. Whether Petitioner was entitled to a certificate of appealability under 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c).

HOLDINGS

1. When no specific objections are filed, the district court reviews the magistrate judge's report and recommendation for clear error rather than conducting de novo review.
2. Respondent's motion for summary judgment was granted and Petitioner's § 2254 habeas petition was denied.
3. A certificate of appealability was denied because Petitioner failed to make the required substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“in the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must ‘only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.’” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion concerns Petitioner's application for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Respondent moved for summary judgment, and Petitioner opposed the motion. The district court did not identify the underlying state-court facts in this order; it adopted the magistrate judge's analysis after finding no clear error.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Respondent moved for summary judgment on March 28, 2025. The magistrate judge issued a Roseboro notice, Petitioner responded, and Respondent replied. On December 30, 2025, the magistrate judge recommended granting summary judgment and denying the § 2254 petition. With no objections filed, the district court reviewed the Report for clear error, adopted it, granted summary judgment, denied the petition, and denied a certificate of appealability.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Roseboro v. Garrison, 528 F.2d 309 (4th Cir. 1975)
- Mathews v. Weber, 423 U.S. 261 (1976)
- Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co., 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005)
- Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003)

- Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000)
- Rose v. Lee, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir. 2001)

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