

SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

Carlos Lorenzo Jackson v. State of Florida

No. SC20-1098 (Fla. Dec. 31, 2020) · No. SC20-1098 · Decided December 31, 2020

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Florida considered sanctions against Carlos Lorenzo Jackson after denying his petition for a writ of mandamus. The Court found that Jackson had abused the judicial process through a persistent history of meritless or inappropriate filings, barred future filings related to specified criminal cases unless signed by Florida Bar counsel, and directed that the opinion be forwarded to the Florida Department of Corrections.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Chief Justice Canady; Justice Polston; Justice Labarga; Justice Lawson; Justice Muñoz; Justice Couriel; Justice Grosshans
JURISDICTION	Florida
DECIDED	December 31, 2020
DOCKET	SC20-1098
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Jackson petitioned the Supreme Court of Florida for a writ of mandamus. After denying the petition, the Court retained jurisdiction to determine whether sanctions should be imposed and ordered Jackson to show cause why he should not be barred from filing further requests for relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Florida Supreme Court opinion; per curiam decision addressing sanctions and filing restrictions for repeated frivolous post-conviction filings.
PARTIES	Carlos Lorenzo Jackson v. State of Florida

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- sanctions
- state post-conviction relief
- post-conviction relief
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Jackson's response to the show-cause order demonstrated cause why sanctions should not be imposed for his repeated and frivolous filings.
2. Whether the Court could restrict Jackson from submitting future filings concerning the specified criminal cases unless signed by a Florida Bar member in good standing.
3. Whether the Court should refer the frivolous proceeding to the Florida Department of Corrections under section 944.279(1), Florida Statutes (2019).

HOLDINGS

1. Jackson failed to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed because his persistent history of meritless or otherwise inappropriate pro se filings constituted an abuse of the judicial process and burdened the Court's limited judicial resources.
2. The Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida must reject future pleadings, petitions, motions, documents, or other filings from Jackson related to case numbers 131977CF0347230001XX or 131978CF0017510001XX unless the filings are signed by a member in good standing of The Florida Bar.
3. The Clerk must forward a copy of the opinion to the Florida Department of Corrections institution or facility where Jackson is incarcerated because the Court found that his mandamus petition was frivolous.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Based on his persistent history of filing pro se petitions that were meritless or otherwise inappropriate for this Court's review, Jackson has abused the judicial process and burdened this Court's limited judicial resources." (-2-)

"Accordingly, the Clerk of this Court is hereby instructed to reject any future pleadings, petitions, motions, documents, or other filings submitted by Carlos Lorenzo Jackson that are related to case numbers 131977CF0347230001XX or 131978CF0017510001XX, unless such filings are signed by a member in good standing of The Florida Bar." (-2-)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Jackson was convicted in Miami-Dade County of kidnapping, robbery with a deadly weapon, sexual battery with a weapon or by force, and burglary of an occupied structure, receiving life and five-year sentences in 1984. Beginning in 1999, he filed twenty-one prior petitions or notices in the Supreme Court of Florida concerning those convictions and sentences, none of which resulted in relief. The Court determined that his mandamus petition was meritless or otherwise inappropriate for review and that his repeated filings burdened the Court's judicial resources.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Court had previously denied Jackson's mandamus petition and retained jurisdiction to pursue possible sanctions. Jackson responded to the show-cause order by asserting that his claims were meritorious. The Court rejected that response, found that he had abused the judicial process and filed a frivolous proceeding, imposed a filing restriction, and directed that the opinion be forwarded to the Florida Department of Corrections for possible disciplinary action.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Topps v. State, 865 So. 2d 1253 (Fla. 2004)
- Jackson v. State, No. SC20-1098 (Fla. Sept. 22, 2020)