

STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO. 14-KA-359

VERSUS

FIFTH CIRCUIT

PHILLIP SMITH

COURT OF APPEAL

STATE OF LOUISIANA

ON APPEAL FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
NO. 95-5434, DIVISION "J"  
HONORABLE NANCY A. MILLER, JUDGE PRESIDING

OCTOBER 29, 2014

COURT OF APPEAL  
FIFTH CIRCUIT

FILED OCT 29 2014

**ROBERT A. CHAISSON**  
**JUDGE**

  
CLERK  
Cheryl Quirk Landrieu

Panel composed of Judges Jude G. Gravois, Robert A. Chaisson,  
and Robert M. Murphy

PAUL D. CONNICK, JR.  
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**APPEAL DISMISSED**

RAC  
AAA  
JEMM

Defendant, Phillip Smith, appeals the denial of his motion to correct an illegal sentence. For the reasons that follow, we dismiss this appeal, but grant defendant thirty days from the date of this opinion within which to file a writ application to this Court seeking review of the denial of his motion to correct an illegal sentence under this Court's supervisory jurisdiction.

#### **PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

Following a jury trial, defendant was convicted of second degree murder and was thereafter sentenced to the mandatory term of life imprisonment at hard labor without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence. LSA-R.S. 14:30.1. On April 15, 1998, this Court affirmed defendant's conviction and sentence. *See State v. Smith*, 97-1075 (La. App. 5 Cir. 04/15/98), 710 So.2d 1187.

On April 1, 2013, defendant filed a "Motion and Order to Correct Illegal Sentence Pursuant to La. C.Cr.P. Article 882 and Request for Resentencing." In his motion, defendant alleged that his mandatory life sentence was illegal, in light

of the United States Supreme Court case of *Miller v. Alabama*, 132 S.Ct. 2455, 183 L.Ed.2d 407 (2012), because he was a juvenile at the time of the offense. On June 4, 2013, the trial court signed an order for defendant to appear in court on August 8, 2013, for “consideration of re-sentencing.” After several continuances, the court considered and denied defendant’s motion to correct an illegal sentence on January 16, 2014, concluding that “[b]ased upon the Supreme Court’s ruling the defendant is not entitled to the relief he is seeking . . .” Defendant now appeals the trial court’s denial of his motion to correct an illegal sentence.

### **LAW AND ANALYSIS**

A ruling denying a motion to correct an illegal sentence is not reviewable by this Court under its appellate jurisdiction. LSA-C.Cr.P. art. 912; *State v. Lee*, 11-1128 (La. App. 5 Cir. 7/31/12), 99 So.3d 721, 723; *State v. Hutchinson*, 99-0034, 99-0035 (La. App. 4 Cir. 5/17/00), 764 So.2d 1139, 1140-41; *State v. Benoit*, 446 So.2d 921, 922-23 (La. App. 1 Cir. 1984), *writ denied*, 448 So.2d 113 (La. 1984). The appropriate avenue of review thereof is by way of a supervisory writ application.<sup>1</sup> *See State v. Schwartz*, 12-183 (La. App. 5 Cir. 10/16/12), 102 So.3d 991, 993.

Accordingly, we hereby dismiss this appeal. However, we grant defendant thirty days from the date of this opinion within which to file a writ application to this Court seeking review of the denial of his motion to correct an illegal sentence under this Court’s supervisory jurisdiction.

### **APPEAL DISMISSED**

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<sup>1</sup> In the past, this Court has converted improperly filed appeals into applications for supervisory writs. *See State v. Tate*, 09-619 (La. App. 5 Cir. 2/9/10), 33 So.3d 292. However, on May 23, 2014, this Court, at an en banc meeting, adopted a policy to discontinue converting jurisdictionally defective appeals into writ applications.

SUSAN M. CHEARDY  
CHIEF JUDGE

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JUDE G. GRAVOIS  
MARC E. JOHNSON  
ROBERT A. CHAISSON  
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**NOTICE OF JUDGMENT AND  
CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY**

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE OPINION IN THE BELOW-NUMBERED MATTER HAS BEEN DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **Uniform Rules - Court of Appeal, Rule 2-20** THIS DAY **OCTOBER 29, 2014** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, COUNSEL OF RECORD AND ALL PARTIES NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHERYL Q. LANDRIEU  
CLERK OF COURT

**14-KA-359**

**E-NOTIFIED**

TERRY M. BOUDREAUX

**MAILED**

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