

**UNPUBLISHED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 07-6289**

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JERELL SMALLWOOD,

Petitioner - Appellant,

versus

S. K. YOUNG,

Respondent - Appellee.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, at Alexandria. T. S. Ellis III, Senior District Judge. (1:05-cv-00874-TSE)

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Submitted: June 20, 2007

Decided: July 11, 2007

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Before WILLIAMS, Chief Judge, WILKINSON, Circuit Judge, and HAMILTON, Senior Circuit Judge.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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Jerell Smallwood, Appellant Pro Se. Stephen R. McCullough, Assistant Attorney General, Richmond, Virginia, for Appellee.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Jerell Smallwood has filed a motion for a certificate of appealability in this court in order to appeal the district court's dismissal of his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 petition. A certificate of appealability will not issue absent "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2) (2000). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find that any assessment of the constitutional claims by the district court is debatable or wrong and that any dispositive procedural ruling by the district court is likewise debatable. Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336-38 (2003); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); Rose v. Lee, 252 F.3d 676, 683-84 (4th Cir. 2001). We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Smallwood has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny Smallwood's motion for a certificate of appealability and dismiss his appeal. We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before the court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED