

UNPUBLISHED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 14-7549

WILLIE BRANCH,

Petitioner - Appellant,

v.

JUSTIN F. ANDREWS,

Respondent - Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern
District of North Carolina, at Raleigh. Terrence W. Boyle,
District Judge. (5:14-hc-02007-B0)

Submitted: December 16, 2014

Decided: December 19, 2014

Before DUNCAN and DIAZ, Circuit Judges, and DAVIS, Senior
Circuit Judge.

Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

Willie Branch, Appellant Pro Se.

Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Willie Branch, a prisoner in custody under a sentence imposed by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, seeks to appeal the district court's order denying relief on his 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (2012) petition, which the district court also construed as a 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2012) petition. The order is not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(A) (2012). 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) (2012). When the district court denies relief on procedural grounds, the prisoner must demonstrate both that the dispositive procedural ruling is debatable, and that the petition states a debatable claim of the denial of a constitutional right. Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484-85 (2000).

We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Branch has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny Branch's motions for transcript at government expense and for appointment of counsel, deny a certificate of appealability, deny leave to proceed in forma pauperis, and dismiss the appeal. We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal

contentions are adequately presented in the materials before this court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED