

**UNPUBLISHED**

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT**

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**No. 18-7394**

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WALTER DELANEY BOOKER, JR.,

Petitioner - Appellant,

v.

HAROLD W. CLARKE, Director of the Department of Corrections;  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

Respondents - Appellees.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, at  
Alexandria. Anthony John Trenga, District Judge. (1:15-cv-00781-AJT-JFA)

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Submitted: April 5, 2019

Decided: April 10, 2019

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Before WILKINSON, AGEE, and WYNN, Circuit Judges.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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Walter D. Booker, Appellant Pro Se.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Walter Delaney Booker seeks to appeal the district court's order denying his Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b) motion, which was in substance a successive 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2012) motion. 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); *Reid v. Angelone*, 369 F.3d 363, 369 (4th Cir. 2004). 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 the merits, a prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find that the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims is debatable or wrong. *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); see *Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336-38 (2003). 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*, 529 U.S. at 484-85.

We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Booker has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny a certificate of appealability, deny leave to proceed in forma pauperis, and dismiss the appeal.

Additionally, we construe Booker's notice of appeal and informal brief as an application to file a second or successive § 2254 petition. See *United States v. Winestock*, 340 F.3d 200, 208 (4th Cir. 2003). In order to obtain authorization to file a successive § 2254 petition, a prisoner must assert claims based on either: (1) a new rule of constitutional law, previously unavailable, made retroactive by the Supreme Court to

cases on collateral review; or (2) newly discovered evidence, not previously discoverable by due diligence, that would be sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that, but for constitutional error, no reasonable factfinder would have found the petitioner guilty of the offense. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2) (2012). Booker's claims do not satisfy either of these criteria. Therefore, we deny authorization to file a successive § 2254 petition.

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*