

**FILED**

**JUL 16 2009**

**Clerk, U.S. District and  
Bankruptcy Courts**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

CARLTON B. CHATMON,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES,

Respondent.

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Civil Action No. **09 1319**

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

Petitioner states that he is serving a term of 20 to 60 months' imprisonment imposed by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on January 25, 2008. Pet. ¶ 10. He alleges that he is unlawfully held in custody because the sentence imposed violates the Sentencing Reform Act of 2000, *id.*, which in relevant part requires that "[a] sentence . . . shall be for a definite term." D.C. Code § 24-403.01(c). A challenge of this nature must be brought by motion in the Superior Court under D.C. Code § 23-110. In relevant part D.C. Code § 23-110 provides:

[An] application for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of a prisoner who is authorized to apply for relief by motion pursuant to this section shall not be entertained by . . . any Federal . . . court if it appears . . . that the Superior Court has denied him relief, unless it also appears that the remedy by motion is inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of his detention.

D.C. Code § 23-110(g). "Section 23-110 has been found to be adequate and effective because it is coextensive with habeas corpus." *Saleh v. Braxton*, 788 F. Supp. 1232 (D.D.C. 1992). It is settled that "a District of Columbia prisoner has no recourse to a federal judicial forum unless the local remedy is 'inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of his detention'" *Byrd v.*

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*Henderson*, 119 F.3d 34, 36-37 (D.C. Cir. 1997) (internal footnote omitted); *Garris v. Lindsay*, 794 F.2d 722, 726 (D.C. Cir.), *cert. denied*, 479 U.S. 993 (1986). A prisoner's lack of success in his previous attempts to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence by means of a motion under D.C. Code § 23-110(g) does not render this remedy inadequate or ineffective. *See Wilson v. Office of the Chairperson*, 892 F. Supp. 277, 280 (D.D.C. 1995).

Accordingly, the Court will dismiss the petition without prejudice. An Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion will be issued separately on this date.

  
United States District Judge

Date: 7/21/09