

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
DUBLIN DIVISION

FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
AUGUSTA DIV.

2017 APR 11 PM 2:58

CLERK C. Adair  
SO. DIST. OF GA.

MAURICE M. O'NEAL, )  
Petitioner, )  
v. ) CV 316-066  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) (Formerly CR 311-006)  
Respondent. )

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**O R D E R**

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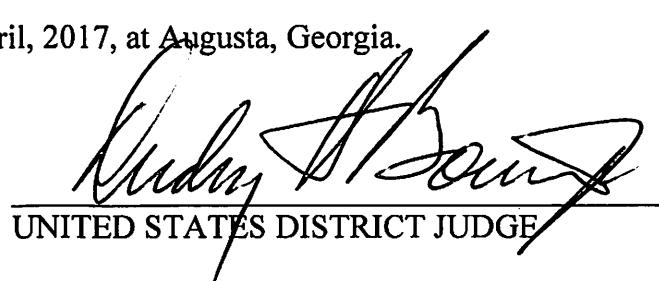
After a careful, *de novo* review of the file, the Court concurs with the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation, to which no objections have been filed. Accordingly, the Court **ADOPTS** the Report and Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge as its opinion, **GRANTS** Respondent's motion to dismiss (doc. no. 4), and **DISMISSES** Petitioner's § 2255 motion.

Further, a federal prisoner must obtain a certificate of appealability ("COA") before appealing the denial of his motion to vacate. This Court "must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant." Rule 11(a) to the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings. This Court should grant a COA only if the prisoner makes a "substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). For the reasons set forth in the Report and Recommendation, and in consideration of the standards enunciated in Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 482-84 (2000), Petitioner has

failed to make the requisite showing. Accordingly, the Court **DENIES** a COA in this case.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, because there are no non-frivolous issues to raise on appeal, an appeal would not be taken in good faith. Accordingly, Petitioner is not entitled to appeal *in forma pauperis*. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3).

Upon the foregoing, the Court **CLOSES** this civil action and **DIRECTS** the Clerk to enter final judgment in favor of ~~Respondent~~.

SO ORDERED this 110 day of April, 2017, at Augusta, Georgia.



The signature is handwritten in black ink. It appears to read "Kandy H. St. John" with a stylized "H" and "J".

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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<sup>1</sup>"If the court denies a certificate, a party may not appeal the denial but may seek a certificate from the court of appeals under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22." Rule 11(a) to the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings.