

**IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
OF TEXAS**

NO. WR-55,124-03

EX PARTE SIDNEY IVAN SKOW, Applicant

**ON APPLICATION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
CAUSE NO. 16748 IN THE 329TH DISTRICT COURT
FROM WHARTON COUNTY**

Per curiam.

ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 11.07 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, the clerk of the trial court transmitted to this Court this application for writ of habeas corpus. *Ex parte Young*, 418 S.W.2d 824, 826 (Tex. Crim. App. 1967). Applicant was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. He did not appeal his conviction.

Applicant contends, among other things, that his plea was involuntary because he was incompetent to stand trial and that the plea agreement did not contemplate the sentence of life without parole which he is now serving. Applicant has alleged facts that, if true, might entitle him to relief. *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668 (1984); *Ex parte Lemke*, 13 S.W.3d 791,795-96 (Tex. Crim. App. 2000). In these circumstances, additional facts are needed. As we held in *Ex parte*

Rodriguez, 334 S.W.2d 294, 294 (Tex. Crim. App. 1997), the trial court is the appropriate forum for findings of fact. The trial court may use any means set out in TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. art. 11.07, § 3(d). In the appropriate case, the trial court may rely on its personal recollection. *Id.*

If the trial court elects to hold a hearing, it shall determine whether Applicant is indigent. If Applicant is indigent and wishes to be represented by counsel, the trial court shall appoint an attorney to represent Applicant at the hearing. TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. art. 26.04.

The trial court shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law in regard to Applicant's claims that his plea was involuntary. The trial court shall make specific findings addressing Applicant's claim that he "did not understand what was going on" at the time of the plea and that he was simply "told what to do and say." The trial court shall also make specific findings addressing whether Applicant pleaded guilty pursuant to a plea agreement that contemplated a sentence of life without parole. The trial court shall also make any other findings of fact and conclusions of law that it deems relevant and appropriate to the disposition of Applicant's claim for habeas corpus relief.

This application will be held in abeyance until the trial court has resolved the fact issues. The issues shall be resolved within 90 days of this order. If any continuances are granted, a copy of the order granting the continuance shall be sent to this Court. A supplemental transcript containing all affidavits and interrogatories or the transcription of the court reporter's notes from any hearing or deposition, along with the trial court's supplemental findings of fact and conclusions of law, shall be returned to this Court within 120 days of the date of this order. Any extensions of time shall be obtained from this Court.

