

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal State of Louisiana

No. 26-K-179

CELIUS GRAY

versus

STATE OF LOUISIANA

IN RE CELIUS GRAY

APPLYING FOR A SUPERVISORY WRIT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE DONALD A. ROWAN, JR., DIVISION "L", No. 20-5560

TRUE COPY

May 05, 2026



LINDA TRAN
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Stephen J. Windhorst,
John J. Molaison, Jr., and Timothy S. Marcel

WRIT DENIED

In this *pro se* writ application, defendant/relator, Celius Gray, asserts the trial court has not ruled on his motion to appoint conflict-free counsel filed on February 16, 2026 and seeks a ruling relative thereto.

On November 13, 2024, the trial court found defendant lacks the mental capacity to understand the proceedings against him or to assist in his defense and remanded him to the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System. A hearing is currently set in this case for May 6, 2026.

When the question of the defendant's mental incapacity to proceed is raised, there shall be no further steps in the criminal prosecution, except the institution of

prosecution, until the defendant is found to have the mental capacity to proceed. La. C.Cr.P. art. 642. If the court finds that defendant lacks the mental capacity to proceed, the proceedings shall be suspended. La. C.Cr.P. art. 648(A).

Because the trial court has found defendant lacks the mental capacity to proceed, the proceedings in this case are suspended. The trial court currently cannot rule on defendant's motion. Thus, defendant is not entitled to relief. We therefore deny this writ application.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 5th day of May, 2026.

SJW
JJM
TSM

SUSAN M. CHEHARDY
CHIEF JUDGE

FREDERICKA H. WICKER
JUDE G. GRAVOIS
MARC E. JOHNSON
STEPHEN J. WINDHORST
JOHN J. MOLAISSON, JR.
SCOTT U. SCHLEGEL
TIMOTHY S. MARCEL

JUDGES



FIFTH CIRCUIT
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CURTIS B. PURSELL
CLERK OF COURT

SUSAN S. BUCHHOLZ
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

LINDA M. TRAN
FIRST DEPUTY CLERK

MELISSA C. LEDET
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF

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NOTICE OF DISPOSITION CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE DISPOSITION IN THE FOREGOING MATTER HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **UNIFORM RULES - COURT OF APPEAL, RULE 4-6** THIS DAY **05/05/2026** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, THE TRIAL COURT CLERK OF COURT, AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR EACH PARTY, AND TO EACH PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

CURTIS B. PURSELL
CLERK OF COURT

26-K-179

E-NOTIFIED

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)
Honorable Donald A. Rowan, Jr. (DISTRICT JUDGE)
Thomas J. Butler (Respondent)

MAILED

Celius Gray #1000677028 (Relator)
Jefferson Parish Correctional Center
P. O. Box 388
Gretna, LA 70054