

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal State of Louisiana

No. 26-KH-310

STATE OF LOUISIANA

versus

CORNELL CAMBRICE

IN RE CORNELL CAMBRICE

APPLYING FOR SUPERVISORY WRIT FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE NANCY A. MILLER, DIVISION "I", No. 20-3897

TRUE COPY

July 31, 2026



LINDA TRAN
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Stephen J. Windhorst,
Michael P. Mentz, Pro Tempore, and Timothy S. Marcel

WRIT DENIED

Relator, Cornell Cambrice, seeks review of the district court's April 28, 2026 ruling which denied his Motion to Correct Illegal Sentence and Vacate Habitual Offender Adjudication. For the following reasons, we deny this writ application.

Procedural Background

On September 15, 2022, relator was found guilty by a jury of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, a violation of La. R.S. 14:95.1, and on September 23, 2022, he was sentenced to seventeen years in hard labor without benefits. On that same date, the State filed a multiple offender bill alleging relator was a second-felony offender. On January 12, 2023, after relator stipulated to the multiple bill, the trial court vacated the original sentence and imposed a twenty-five-year sentence at hard labor without benefits under La. R.S. 15:529.1. This Court affirmed

the underlying conviction on December 18, 2024, and noted the multiple offender proceedings were not before it because no second appeal was taken as to those proceedings. *State v. Cambrice*, 24-153 (La. App. 5 Cir. 12/18/24), 410 So.3d 302. Relator did not seek review by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Relator filed his Motion to Correct Illegal Sentence and Vacate Habitual Offender Sentence on February 9, 2026, claiming impermissible “double enhancement” arguing that the State relied upon the same prior offense as an element for his convicted felon in possession of a firearm conviction and also as the predicate felony conviction used to enhance his sentence as a second-felony offender under La. R.S. 15:529.1. On April 28, 2026, the district court denied relief, finding the claim was not cognizable in a motion to correct illegal sentence and further finding no double enhancement occurred, stating:

The State charged, and the defendant admitted, that the defendant was previously convicted in case number 03-3134 for distribution of cocaine. The State used different convictions than the conviction used in the charged crime of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Upon review, the court finds that the defendant fails to prove or assert an illegal term. He was sentenced within legal limits to a valid habitual offender bill.

Relator filed the instant writ application re-urging his double enhancement claim. As an initial matter, La. C.Cr.P. art. 882(A) permits correction “at any time” only of an illegal sentence. However, relator’s filing does not identify an illegal term in the multiple offender sentence, but rather asserts a claim of improper double enhancement. This is not a claim of an illegal sentence and is therefore not cognizable under La. C.Cr.P. art. 882(A). Thus, we find no error in the district court’s denial of relator’s motion.

Moreover, construing relator’s application as an application for post-conviction relief,¹ his claim challenging the validity of his multiple offender adjudication and sentence is untimely under La. C.Cr.P. art. 930.8(A) which provides that an application for post-conviction relief must be filed within two years of the judgment of conviction and sentences becoming final. As discussed, relator did not appeal the multiple offender sentence, which became final thirty days after imposition on January 12,

¹ The Louisiana Supreme Court has recognized that courts should “look through the caption of the pleadings in order to ascertain their substance and to do substantial justice.” *See State v. Moses*, 05-787 (La. App. 5 Cir. 5/9/06), 932 So.2d 701, 706 n.3, writ denied, 06-2171 (La. 4/5/07), 954 So.2d 140.

2023, and no statutory exception was shown. Accordingly, his claim is untimely under La. C.Cr.P. art. 930.8(A).

For the foregoing reasons, the writ application is denied.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 31st day of July, 2026.

TSM
SJW
MPM

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
101 DERBIGNY STREET (70053)
POST OFFICE BOX 489
GRETNA, LOUISIANA 70054
www.fifthcircuit.org

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

(504) 376-1400
(504) 376-1498 FAX

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 **07/31/2026** 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:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curtis B. Pursell".

CURTIS B. PURSELL
CLERK OF COURT

26-KH-310

E-NOTIFIED

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)
Honorable Nancy A. Miller (DISTRICT JUDGE)
Thomas J. Butler (Respondent)

MAILED

Cornell Cambrice #288807 (Relator)
Dixon Correctional Institute
Post Office Box 788
Jackson, LA 70748