

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal State of Louisiana

No. 26-KH-353

STATE OF LOUISIANA

versus

ANTONIO KEY

IN RE ANTONIO KEY
APPLYING FOR SUPERVISORY WRIT FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COURT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE E.
ADRIAN ADAMS, DIVISION "G", No. 19-2637

TRUE COPY

September 09, 2026



LINDA TRAN
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Susan M. Chehardy,
Jude G. Gravois, and Marc E. Johnson

WRIT DENIED

Relator, Antonio Key, seeks review of the trial court's April 21, 2026 denial of his application for post-conviction relief ("APCR"). In his APCR, Relator argued that his trial attorney demonstrated a lack of understanding of the law of principals and provided ineffective assistance of counsel. Relator specifically complained of his trial counsel's argument for a lesser and included offense verdict deprived him of due process and a meaningful defense. He further complained that his trial counsel's failure to consult with him prior to trial rendered the counsel's performance deficient.

In its denial, the trial court found that Relator failed to support his claims that his trial counsel's strategy was deficient. The court reasoned that trial counsel's

strategy aimed at obtaining a lesser verdict was a sound tactic in attempt to mitigate Relator's guilt. The trial court further reasoned that Relator's trial preparation claims were purely speculative and conclusory.

After review, we find that the trial court did not err in denying Relator's APCR. Under *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668, 104 S.Ct. 2052, 80 L.Ed.2d 674 (1984), Relator has not demonstrated that the claimed errors rendered his trial "fundamentally unfair." The fact that a particular strategy is unsuccessful does not equate to professional incompetence. See *State v. Felde*, 422 So.2d 370, 393 (La. 1982), *cert. denied*, 461 U.S. 918, 103 S.Ct. 1903, 77 L.Ed.2d 290 (1983). Additionally, Relator does not demonstrate or even allege how additional meetings would have affected the outcome of the proceedings. See *Moody v. Polk*, 408 F.3d 141, 148 (4th Cir. 2005), *cert. denied*, 546 U.S. 1108, 126 S.Ct. 1060, 163 L.Ed.2d 885 (2006). Relator has not presented a claim that warrants relief.

Accordingly, the writ application is denied.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 9th day of September, 2026.

MEJ
SMC
JGG

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



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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
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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 **09/09/2026** 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-353

E-NOTIFIED

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)
Honorable E. Adrian Adams (DISTRICT JUDGE)
Kathryn J. Burke (Relator)
Monique D. Nolan (Respondent)

Thomas J. Butler (Respondent)
Jennifer C. Cameron (Relator)

MAILED

Jacob G. Longman (Relator)
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