

September 24, 2013

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

Elisabeth A. Shumaker  
Clerk of Court

TENTH CIRCUIT

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RODERICK EARSEL WEBSTER,

Petitioner - Appellant,

v.

JUSTIN JONES,

Respondent - Appellee.

No. 13-6145

(D.C. No. 5:12-CV-01357-F)

(W.D. Okla.)

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**ORDER DENYING CERTIFICATE  
OF APPEALABILITY\***

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Before **KELLY, HOLMES**, and **MATHESON**, Circuit Judges.

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Proceeding pro se,<sup>1</sup> Oklahoma state inmate Roderick Earsel Webster seeks a certificate of appealability (“COA”) to challenge the district court’s dismissal of his habeas petition as time-barred. He also seeks leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP”). We **deny** a COA, **deny** Mr. Webster’s motion to proceed IFP, and **dismiss** this matter.

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\* This order is not binding precedent except under the doctrines of law of the case, res judicata, and collateral estoppel. It may be cited, however, for its persuasive value consistent with Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32.1 and Tenth Circuit Rule 32.1.

<sup>1</sup> Because Mr. Webster is proceeding pro se, we construe his filings liberally. See *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007) (per curiam); *Garza v. Davis*, 596 F.3d 1198, 1201 n.2 (10th Cir. 2010).

## I

Mr. Webster was convicted in Oklahoma state court in 2009 of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed his conviction on direct appeal. On December 6, 2012, Mr. Webster filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The State moved the court to dismiss the petition as time-barred and the court granted the motion. This application for a COA followed.

## II

In his application, Mr. Webster appears to raise the following issues, each with reference to his prosecution in state court: (1) prosecutorial misconduct violated his due process rights; (2) exculpatory evidence was not turned over to the defense in violation of *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963); (3) improper opinion testimony was given in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment and Mr. Webster's right to a fair trial; (4) a statement by Mr. Webster to the police was improperly admitted into evidence in violation of *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (1966); and (5) cumulative error undermined the verdict.

Mr. Webster's arguments all relate entirely to the merits of his underlying claims for habeas relief. None of them addresses the district court's reason for dismissing the petition, namely, that it is time-barred. When a district court denies habeas relief on procedural grounds, a COA should not issue unless, *inter*

*alia*, the petitioner can “show ‘that jurists of reason would find it debatable . . . whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling.’” *Coppage v. McKune*, 534 F.3d 1279, 1281 (10th Cir. 2008) (omission in original) (quoting *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000)). Because Mr. Webster makes no arguments concerning the timeliness issue, he fails to demonstrate that the district court’s procedural ruling is open to debate by reasonable jurists. He is therefore not entitled to a COA.

### III

For the aforementioned reasons, we **deny** Mr. Webster’s request for a COA, **deny** his motion to proceed IFP, and **dismiss** this matter.

Entered for the Court

JEROME A. HOLMES  
Circuit Judge