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ERROL DUNKLEY v. COMMISSIONER OF
CORRECTION
(AC 26876)
(AC 27177)

DiPentima, Harper and Foti, Js.

Argued November 14, 2006—officially released January 9, 2007

(Appeal from Superior Court, judicial district of New
Haven, Pittman, J.)

Anthony E. Parent, special public defender, for the
appellant (petitioner).

Rita M. Shair, senior assistant state's attorney, with
whom were *Michael Dearington*, state's attorney, and,
on the brief, *Linda N. Howe*, senior assistant state's
attorney, for the appellee (respondent).

Opinion

PER CURIAM. The petitioner, Errol Dunkley, appeals
following the habeas court's denial of his three petitions
for certification to appeal from the judgments dismiss-
ing his three petitions for a writ of habeas corpus. We
dismiss the appeals.

The petitioner was convicted, following a jury trial,
of burglary in the first degree as an accessory in viola-
tion of General Statutes §§ 53a-8 and 53a-101 (a). The
petitioner received a total effective sentence of eighteen
years incarceration, execution suspended after fifteen
years, followed by five years probation. He then filed
a direct appeal, and this court affirmed the judgment
of conviction in a memorandum decision. See *State v.*
Dunkley, 47 Conn. App. 914, 702 A.2d 672 (1997). In
1998, the petitioner filed a petition for a writ of habeas
corpus in which he claimed that his trial counsel had
provided ineffective assistance. That petition was
unsuccessful, and the petitioner failed to obtain certifi-
cation to appeal. He appealed to this court, and we
dismissed the appeal. See *Dunkley v. Commissioner*
of Correction, 73 Conn. App. 819, 810 A.2d 281 (2002),
cert. denied, 262 Conn. 953, 818 A.2d 780 (2003).

The petitioner subsequently filed three additional
petitions for a writ of habeas corpus. In the first petition,
the petitioner claimed ineffective assistance of trial

counsel, actual innocence and prosecutorial misconduct. In the second petition, he claimed that his appellate counsel, Robert M. Casale, had provided ineffective assistance. In the third petition, the petitioner again claimed ineffective assistance of trial counsel and prosecutorial misconduct. The habeas court rejected all of the petitioner's claims and then denied his three petitions for certification to appeal.

Although the petitioner has appealed from the denial of all three petitions for certification to appeal, he limits his brief to the issue of whether Casale provided ineffective assistance in the petitioner's direct appeal. We therefore deem all of the petitioner's other claims abandoned. As to Casale's allegedly ineffective assistance, the petitioner claims that Casale should have sought certification to appeal to our Supreme Court after we issued a memorandum decision affirming the judgment of conviction. The petitioner argues that Casale's failure to seek certification to appeal deprived the petitioner of further review regarding a witness' prior inconsistent statement that had been admitted into evidence at the petitioner's trial pursuant to *State v. Whelan*, 200 Conn. 743, 513 A.2d 86, cert. denied, 479 U.S. 994, 107 S. Ct. 597, 93 L. Ed. 2d 598 (1986).¹ The habeas court ruled that even if Casale's failure to seek certification to appeal constituted deficient performance, the petitioner had failed to demonstrate prejudice because it was unlikely that our Supreme Court would have granted certification to appeal and reversed the judgment of conviction.

The petitioner must demonstrate that the habeas court abused its discretion in denying his petitions for certification to appeal. It is noteworthy that the petitioner did not raise his claim of ineffective assistance of appellate counsel in his 1998 habeas petition, even though he could have done so. See *Dunkley v. Commissioner of Correction*, supra, 73 Conn. App. 819. After a careful review of the record and briefs, we conclude that the petitioner has not demonstrated that the issue he has raised is debatable among jurists of reason, that a court could resolve the issue in a different manner or that the question raised deserves encouragement to proceed further. See *Lozada v. Deeds*, 498 U.S. 430, 431–32, 111 S. Ct. 860, 112 L. Ed. 2d 956 (1991); *Simms v. Warden*, 230 Conn. 608, 616, 646 A.2d 126 (1994). Accordingly, the court did not abuse its discretion in denying the petitions for certification to appeal.

The appeals are dismissed.

¹ Our Supreme Court has adopted "a rule allowing the substantive use of prior written inconsistent statements, signed by the declarant, who has personal knowledge of the facts stated, when the declarant testifies at trial and is subject to cross-examination." *State v. Whelan*, supra, 200 Conn. 753. "A *Whelan* claim is evidentiary in nature and, accordingly, the defendant bears the burden of establishing that the trial court's erroneous ruling was harmful to him in that it probably affected the outcome of the trial. . . . The admissibility of evidence, including the admissibility of a prior inconsistent statement pursuant to *Whelan*, is a matter within the wide discretion of the trial court. . . . On appeal, the exercise of that discretion will not be dis-

turbed except on a showing that it has been abused.” (Internal quotation marks omitted.) *State v. Holbrook*, 97 Conn. App. 490, 499–500, 906 A.2d 4, cert. denied, 280 Conn. 935, 909 A.2d 962 (2006).
