

**FILED**

**SEP 16 2009**

**Clerk, U.S. District and  
Bankruptcy Courts**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Melvin Richardson,

Petitioner,

v.

J.D. Whitehead,

Respondent.

Civil Action No.

**09 1758**

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

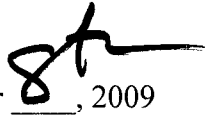
This action, brought *pro se*, is before the Court on the petitioner's application for a writ of *habeas corpus*, accompanied by an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. The Court will grant the application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and will dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction.

Petitioner is a prisoner at the Federal Correctional Institution in Cumberland, Maryland. He challenges a judgment of conviction entered by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia following his plea of guilty. *See* Pet. at 1. Although petitioner has submitted a form petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254, it is established that challenges to a Superior Court judgment of conviction must be pursued in that court under D.C. Code § 23-110, *see Blair-Bey v. Quick*, 151 F.3d 1036, 1042-43 (D.C. Cir. 1998); *Byrd v. Henderson*, 119 F.3d 34, 36-37 (D.C. Cir. 1997), and that absent a showing of an inadequate or ineffective local remedy, "a District of Columbia prisoner has no recourse to a federal judicial forum." *Garris v. Lindsay*, 794 F.2d 722, 726 (D.C. Cir. 1986), *cert. denied*, 479 U.S. 993 (1986) (internal footnote omitted). Under District of Columbia law,

[an] application for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of a prisoner who is authorized to

apply for relief by motion pursuant to this section shall not be entertained by . . . any Federal . . . court if it appears . . . that the Superior Court has denied him relief, unless it also appears that the remedy by motion is inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of his detention.

D.C. Code §23-110(g). The Superior Court and the D.C. Court of Appeals have entertained petitioner's collateral challenges to his conviction. *See* Pet. at 3-4. Petitioner's lack of success in the local courts, however, does not render the local remedy inadequate or ineffective, *see Garris v. Lindsay*, 794 F.2d at 727; *Charles v. Chandler*, 180 F.3d 753, 756-58 (6th Cir. 1999) (citing cases), and petitioner has provided no other basis for finding the local remedy inadequate. This Court therefore lacks authority to entertain the petition. A separate Order of dismissal accompanies this Memorandum Opinion.

Date: September  , 2009

  
United States District Judge