

UNPUBLISHED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 00-6505**

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JOHN F. GASTON,

Petitioner - Appellant,

versus

RONALD J. ANGELONE, Director of the Virginia  
Department of Corrections,

Respondent - Appellee.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern Dis-  
trict of Virginia, at Norfolk. Jerome B. Friedman, District Judge.  
(CA-99-845-2)

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Submitted: August 30, 2000

Decided: September 7, 2000

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Before WIDENER, NIEMEYER, and WILLIAMS, Circuit Judges.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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John F. Gaston, Appellant Pro Se. Leah Ann Darron, Assistant At-  
torney General, Richmond, Virginia, for Appellee.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.  
See Local Rule 36(c).

PER CURIAM:

John F. Gaston seeks to appeal the district court's order denying relief on his petition filed under 28 U.S.C.A. § 2254 (West 1994 & Supp. 1998). We have reviewed the record and the district court's opinion accepting the recommendation of the magistrate judge and find no reversible error. Accordingly, we deny a certificate of appealability and dismiss the appeal on the reasoning of the district court. See Gaston v. Angelone, No. CA-99-845-2 (E.D. Va. Mar. 16, 2000).<sup>\*</sup> We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before the court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED

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<sup>\*</sup> Although the district court's order is marked as "filed" on March 15, 2000, the district court's records show that it was entered on the docket sheet on March 16, 2000. Pursuant to Rules 58 and 79(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, it is the date that the order was entered on the docket sheet that we take as the effective date of the district court's decision. See Wilson v. Murray, 806 F.2d 1232, 1234-35 (4th Cir. 1986).