

Serial: 241639

FILED

MAY 25 2022

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPREME COURT
COURT OF APPEALS

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

No. 2020-DP-00440-SCT

WILLIE CORY GODBOLT

Appellant

v.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

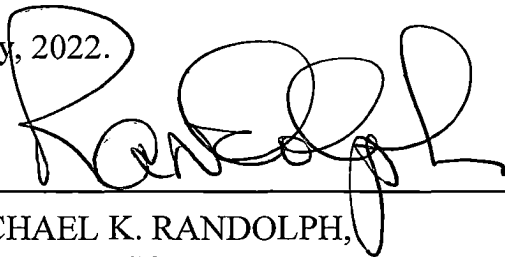
Appellee

EN BANC ORDER

Before the Court, en banc, is the letter-styled motion for the appointment of new counsel filed pro se by Willie Cory Godbolt. Godbolt is indigent, and he is represented by attorneys with the Mississippi Office of State Public Defender, Capital Division. Godbolt provides no basis for his request for new counsel. “Counsel is presumed to be competent . . . An indigent criminal defendant is not entitled . . . to counsel of his own choosing[.]” *Rowsey v. State*, 188 So. 3d 486, 499 (Miss. 2015) (first alteration in original) (internal quotation marks omitted) (quoting *Johnson v. State*, 476 So. 2d 1195, 1204 (Miss. 1985)); see also *Rinehart v. State*, 883 So. 2d 573, 576 (Miss. 2004) (“A defendant has an absolute right to counsel, but his right to choose counsel is not absolute.” (internal quotation marks omitted) (quoting *Atterberry v. State*, 667 So. 2d 622, 630 (Miss. 1995))). Having duly considered the motion, the Court finds that it should be denied.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that Godbolt's motion for the appointment of new counsel is denied.

SO ORDERED, this the 25 day of May, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randolph", written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL K. RANDOLPH,
CHIEF JUSTICE,
FOR THE COURT

TO DENY: ALL JUSTICES.