

Coney L. Rutledge 246149
Kirkland R+E F3A 207
4344 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

Ms. Jenny Abbott Kitchens, Clerk
South Carolina Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

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OCT 27 2022

SC Court of Appeals

Re: Coney L. Rutledge v. State of South Carolina
PCR Case No: 2017-CP-22-00210


Dear Ms. Kitchens,

I write to you at this time be-
cause I wish to appeal to this Court in seek of
relief or aid in the above related matter be-
cause I have thus far experienced what I
certainly believe is an excessive and inordinate
delay in the disposition of my post-conviction
relief claim.

On June 7, 2016 on advice of counsel I pled guilty
to two drug related charges that I'd previously
maintained that I was not guilty of and I
received two concurrent one year sentences. After
serving approximately seven months I was uncondi-
tionally released.

After I was subsequently arrested on charges
unrelated to the prior conviction I learned that
prior counsel provided erroneous related to sentencing
exposure because he believed I was correctly
charged with 1st degree rather than 2nd and he
also failed to advise me of exculpatory evidence
that was in his possession.

Because I was still within the statutory

time 

allotted time frame I filed for Post-Conviction Relief alleging her effective assistance of counsel. My application was filed on March 14, 2017. My case was called before the Honorable John C. Hayes on June 17, 2019 in the Georgetown County Court of Common Pleas.

After the hearing, Judge Hayes took my case under advisement and as of the date of this writing my case has remained so.

For the last year I have diligently fought to have my case resolved, and have made numerous attempts to contact all the involved parties.

In January of 2022 I learned from the Georgetown Court Clerk of Court that Judge Hayes retired and that Assistant Attorney General Johnny James Jr. no longer handles 15th Circuit PCR cases.

Attempts to contact my court appointed counsel (James K. Falk of Charleston, SC) produces absolutely no results as numerous letters have gone unanswered.

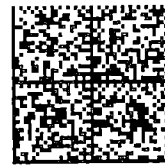
This prior conviction which I challenge as unconstitutional has since been used to enhance a subsequent charge and very heavily influenced my decision to plead guilty in order to avoid a potential mandatory sentence of life without parole.

This delay has been and continues to be prejudicial in several ways and because the lower court continues to fail in protecting my constitutional due process rights I appeal to this court to take whatever steps it deems necessary in order to protect those rights.

If this letter is not sufficient I ask that you please provide me with the proper forms to file appeal and/or a petition for Writ of Mandamus or Certiorari, whichever is proper.

Respectfully,
Corey L. Rutledge

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