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Nov 10 2022

S.C. SUPREME COURT

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November 10, 2022

Ashli Thompson, Case Management Specialist
Supreme Court of South Carolina
P.O. Box 11330
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: State v. Jason H. Peele
Appellate Case No: **2022-001440**

Dear Ms. Thompson,

As Mr. Jason Peele's public defender in General Sessions Court at the time of his guilty plea, I filed the appropriate paperwork for his appeal afterward at his request. My understanding is that, by operation of Rule, I was automatically relieved as appellate counsel, the Office of Appellate Defense would represent Mr. Peele for any further appellate matters in his case, and my only other involvement would be if Appellate Defense requested further assistance to help them perfect the appeal. Specifically, I believe Rule 602(e)(3), SCACR states as follows:

After conviction of an accused who has been represented by appointed counsel or Public Defender, the Office of Appellate Defense shall represent the accused until final judgment. After

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serving and filing a Notice of Appeal for an accused who desires to appeal, appointed counsel and Public Defenders shall be automatically relieved as appellate counsel for the accused, without obtaining leave to withdraw as provided in Rule 264, SCACR. However, the Public Defender or appointed counsel shall assist in representing the accused in any manner necessary to properly perfect the appeal or as otherwise requested by the Office of Appellate Defense.

Rule 602(e)(3), SCACR. However, based upon the letter I recently received from the Court, it appears that I am still erroneously listed as counsel of record for Mr. Peele's appeal. Accordingly, I respectfully request that I be relieved as counsel of record, and the office of Appellate Defense be appointed to represent Mr. Peele until final judgment pursuant to Rule 602(e)(3).

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if you need any further information from me regarding the matter, and I will provide it to you. Thank you for your time and assistance in ensuring Mr. Peele is properly represented at the appellate level of his case.

Sincerely,

/s/ Breen R. Stevens

Breen R. Stevens, Esq.

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