

**From:** [Stephen M. Bowden](#)  
**To:** [Court Of Appeals Filings](#)  
**Subject:** Romane Clare (2023-000230)  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 12:02:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [DS State v. Clare- Letter 05.16.pdf](#)

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May 17 2023

SC Court of Appeals

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Good afternoon,

I received the attached letter today, and wanted to provide some additional information for the Court's consideration. I am an assistant public defender in Charleston County and was appointed to represent Romane Clare on his pending murder charge in the Charleston County Court of General Sessions. Mr. Clare pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter in February 2023, and I filed a notice of appeal on his behalf, noting that I was not aware of any appealable issue, but also noting that Mr. Clare had a hearing under the South Carolina Protection of Persons and Property Act and a hearing on his motion to suppress illegally obtained evidence. Both of those motions were denied.

On March 29, 2023, I received a letter from the Court of Appeals that advised me to send a letter to Mr. Clare telling him that I was not aware of any basis to appeal his guilty plea or sentence and that he had a certain amount of time to provide a basis for the appeal the Court. I sent that letter to Mr. Clare and sent a copy to the Court.

Today, I received the attached letter. Generally, this responsibility would pass to the office of Appellate Defense, but they advised me that they would not take the appeal until the Court made a decision on whether the appeal would be dismissed or would be able to proceed based on the response that Mr. Clare chose to provide. If the Court has chosen to allow Mr. Clare's appeal to proceed, can someone please provide me with notice of that decision so that I can forward it to Appellate Defense?

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

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