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May 24 2023

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Aiken County

Diane Schafer Goodstein, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

PEDRO CERVANTES RODRIGUEZ,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2022-001511

MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO
SERVE AND FILE THE INITIAL BRIEF OF APPELLANT
AND DESIGNATION OF MATTER

Counsel for Pedro Cervantes Rodriguez respectfully requests a thirty (30) day extension from May 24, 2023 until June 23, 2023, in which to serve and file the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter in this case. This motion is made pursuant to the Order of the South Carolina Supreme Court dated March 18, 2009. This is a third request for an extension. In support of this request, counsel shows:

1. The Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter in this case are due to be served and filed today.

2. Counsel was on scheduled leave from May 1-13, 2023. Counsel filed the Reply Brief of Petitioner for the capital appeal in the case of Marion Alexander Lindsey v. The State on

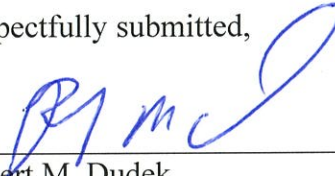
or about April 28, 2023. Counsel filed the Initial Reply Brief of Appellant in the case of The State v. Bowen Gray Turner with the Court of Appeals on April 25, 2023. Counsel filed the petition for rehearing in the death penalty case of The State v. Timothy Ray Jones, Jr. on April 13, 2023. Counsel filed the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter in the murder case of The State v. Dabry Aunta James with the Court of Appeals on April 5, 2023. Counsel appeared before the Supreme Court for oral argument in the murder case of The State v. William C. Sellers on Thursday, March 30, 2023. Counsel and co-counsel Lara M. Caudy filed the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter in the case of The State v. Bowen Gray Turner with the Court of Appeals on March 16, 2023. Counsel appeared before the Supreme Court for oral argument as the respondent in the attempted case of The State v. James Caleb Williams on March 8, 2023. Counsel conducted a CLE presentation and training on Preserving the Record for Appellate Review for the Sixteenth Circuit Public Defender's Office on March 3, 2023. Counsel was a panelist for a CLE presentation on Criminal Practice in South Carolina for the South Carolina Bar CLE Division on February 24, 2023. Counsel conducted a CLE presentation and training on Preserving the Record for Appellate Review for the Fifteenth Circuit Public Defender's Office on February 22, 2023. Counsel filed the brief of petitioner in the case of James A. Gardner v. The State with this Court on January 18, 2023. **Counsel also has extensive administrative duties as the Chief Appellate Defender.**

3. This request is made in good faith, and not for purposes of delay. Counsel intends to continue to work on the cases with more than three extensions first so that the caseload will hopefully become more manageable in the near future, and less extensions will need to be requested.

4. On April 28, 2023, opposing counsel, the Office of the Attorney General, graciously consented to this extension request by way of general consent granted in writing, by Deputy Attorney General Donald J. Zelenka for all Appellate Defense extensions through May 31, 2023.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned counsel would respectfully request a thirty-day extension from May 24, 2023 until June 23, 2023. Counsel respectfully requests that the time limits for filing the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter be held in abeyance pending a ruling on this motion.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. Dudek
Chief Appellate Defender

This 24th day of May, 2023.

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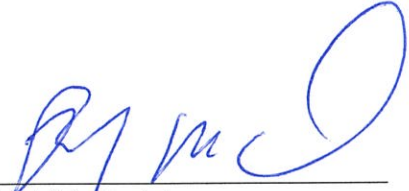
PEDRO CERVANTES RODRIGUEZ,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2022-001511

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Rule 262(a)(3) and Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR, the undersigned hereby certifies a true copy of the Motion for Extension in the above-referenced case has been served upon William M. Blich, Jr., Esquire, at the primary e-mail address listed in the Attorney Information System (AIS), this 24th day of May, 2023.



Robert M. Dudek
Chief Appellate Defender

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT