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J. Hugh Ryan, *Executive Director*
Hervery B. O. Young, *Deputy Director and General Counsel*
Lori Frost, *Assistant Director*

August 2, 2023

via Electronic Mail and US Mail

Marie Assa'ad-Faltas
Post Office Box 9115
Columbia, South Carolina 29290

RE: Marie Assa'ad-Faltas v. State
Appellate Case No.: 2023-000616

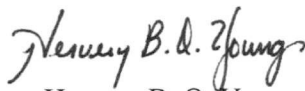
Dear Dr. Faltas:

This letter is a follow up to our telephone conversation on Monday, July 31, 2023. I have confirmed that because you were determined to be indigent and that the Court now considers the Office of Appellate Defense to be representing you in this appeal. I shared your concerns regarding a conflict for the Office of Appellate Defense with Robert Dudek, Chief Appellate Defender and asked that a conflict check be performed consistent with their normal practice and with attention to the concerns you have expressed. It has been determined that, pursuant to the Rules governing conflicts of interest, a conflict does not exist to prohibit the Office from providing representation in this appeal. Therefore, Mr. Dudek will assign an Appellate Defender to this case.

You have made your position clear regarding there being a conflict. There is no need to send multiple emails to multiple persons to communicate your position. If you feel strongly about your position, you should submit a motion to the Supreme Court requesting the Court to review your conflict claim and relieve the Office of Appellate Defense. The Court will allow a motion to relieve Appellate Defense and not consider it a violation of any previous orders of the Court regarding your submission of pro se documents or communication with the Court. It is advised that you limit your communication, if any, to this issue.

I would also remind you that you have the options of (1) retaining counsel of your choice to handle this appeal or (2) as you stated to me, asking the Court to not appoint counsel and risk the dismissal of your appeal. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Hervery B. O. Young

cc: Robert M. Dudek, Chief Appellate Defender
J. Hugh Ryan, SCCID Executive Director

RECEIVED
AUG 10 2023
S.C. SUPREME COURT