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**Nov 14 2023**

**SC Court of Appeals**



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SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

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Robert M. Dudek, Chief Appellate Defender  
Wanda H. Carter, Deputy Chief Appellate Defender

November 14, 2023

The Honorable Jenny Kitchings  
South Carolina Court of Appeals  
PO Box 11629  
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: The State v. James W. Owens, Appellate Case No. 2022-001458

Dear Mr. Kitchings:

Since our last update letter, my office has called and emailed the chambers of the Honorable R. Ferrell Cothran, as well as the Deputy Solicitor for Kershaw County. I have again requested a status conference in order for the parties to meet with the Court and help establish a more clear timeline toward resolution.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Breen Richard Stevens".

Breen Richard Stevens  
Appellate Defender

BRS/sl

Cc: Mark R. Farthing, Esquire  
Curtis Pauling, Esquire  
James W. Owens

**From:** [Stevens, Breen](#)  
**To:** [Cothran, Ralph F. Jr., Law Clerk \(Caroline Land\)](#); [Cothran, Ralph Ferrell Jr. Secretary \(Gayle Brunson\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [Leverett, Scott](#)  
**Subject:** State v. James Owens, re: trial record reconstruction hearing  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:26:49 PM

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Good afternoon, Judge Cothran,

I am writing again to see if it is possible to arrange a chambers conference with you, Deputy Solicitor Pauling, and myself regarding the reconstruction hearing of Mr. James Pauling. I understand reconstructing the entire record of Mr. Owens' case is not likely going to be a simple task, but I do look forward to meeting with you and Dep. Sol. Curtis to start discussing the matter further at a date and time conducive to your busy schedule. Please let me know at your earliest convenience what may work best. Thank you for your help regarding this matter.

Very respectfully yours,  
-Breen

Breen R. Stevens  
Appellate Defender  
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Tel: (803) 734-1330  
Fax: (803) 734-1345

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**From:** Stevens, Breen [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 1:53 PM  
**To:** Cothran, Ralph F. Jr., Law Clerk (Caroline Land) [REDACTED] >; Cothran, Ralph Ferrell Jr. Secretary (Gayle Brunson) [REDACTED] >  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: State v. James Owens, re: trial record reconstruction hearing

Good afternoon, Caroline,

I hope and trust all is going well. I wanted to touch base and see if Judge Cothran might be able to set a date for Curtis Pauling and I to meet with him for a status conference regarding Mr. James Owens' reconstruction matter. I know Judge Cothran has been busy with General Sessions Court in Beaufort the last couple weeks, and is likely in Laurens this week for General Sessions Court again. If it is possible to have a status conference, I can attend either in-person, online, or by telephone—whatever is most convenient for Judge Cothran and Mr. Pauling. Please let me know at his convenience.

Very respectfully yours,  
-Breen

Breen R. Stevens  
Appellate Defender  
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401  
Columbia, SC 29201  
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**From:** Cothran, Ralph F. Jr., Law Clerk (Caroline Land) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:39 PM  
**To:** Stevens, Breen [REDACTED]; Cothran, Ralph Ferrell Jr. Secretary (Gayle Brunson)  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Leverett, Scott [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External] RE: State v. James Owens, re: trial record reconstruction hearing

Good Afternoon,

I have received your email and will discuss with Judge Cothran possible dates for the hearing.

Thank you,

*Caroline "Bitsy" Land*  
**Law Clerk for the  
Honorable R. Ferrell Cothran, Jr.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit**  
Phone: 803-435-2450  
Clarendon County Court House  
P.O. Box 32  
3 West Keitt Street  
Manning, South Carolina 29102

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**From:** Stevens, Breen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 9:53 AM  
**To:** Cothran, Ralph Ferrell Jr. Secretary (Gayle Brunson) [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Cothran, Ralph F. Jr., Law Clerk (Caroline Land) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]; Leverett, Scott [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** State v. James Owens, re: trial record reconstruction hearing

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Good morning, Judge Cothran,

I am writing to follow-up on scheduling the reconstruction hearing for Mr. James Owens. Please let me know at your earliest convenience when we may schedule either another chambers conference regarding the matter, or the hearing itself if you prefer, and we'll be sure to make it happen. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Very respectfully yours,  
-Breen

Breen R. Stevens  
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