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Dec 14 2023

SC Court of Appeals



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

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

December 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 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 hopefully 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 R. Stevens', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Breen Richard Stevens
Appellate Defender

BRS/sl

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

Stevens, Breen

From: Stevens, Breen
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 9:11 AM
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

Good morning, 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. Please let me know at your earliest convenience what may work best. Thank you for your help regarding this matter. Thank you for your time and consideration 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

From: Stevens, Breen
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:27 PM
To: Cothran, Ralph F. Jr., Law Clerk (Caroline Land) [REDACTED]; Cothran, Ralph Ferrell Jr. Secretary (Gayle Brunson) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Leverett, Scott [REDACTED]
Subject: State v. James Owens, re: trial record reconstruction hearing

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 you 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

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] Leverett, Scott [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
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Columbia, SC 29201
Tel: (803) 734-1330
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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.
3rd Judicial Circuit
Phone: 803-435-2450
Clarendon County Court House
P.O. Box 32
3 West Keitt Street
Manning, South Carolina 29102

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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