

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

State of South Carolina,

v.

Richard Alexander Murdaugh, Defendant.

Colleton County

2022-GS-15-00592

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2022-GS-15-00594

2022-GS-15-00595

Case No. 2024-000004

ORDER

Defendant was convicted of the murders of Margaret Kennedy Branstetter Murdaugh and Paul Terry Murdaugh on March 2, 2023, and sentenced on March 3, 2023. Defendant served and filed a notice of appeal to the Court of Appeals and on September 5, 2023, sought leave to file a new trial motion in the circuit court pursuant to Rule 29(b) of the South Carolina Rules of Criminal Procedure, and to suspend the appeal during the pendency of the motion. The Court of Appeals granted the motion on October 17, 2023, and Defendant filed a motion for a new trial with the Colleton County Clerk of Court on October 27, 2023.

By order dated December 18, 2023, the Honorable Jean Hoefer Toal, retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina, was assigned exclusive jurisdiction for the limited purpose of presiding over Defendant's motion for a new trial in the above matters. Because Defendant's motion for a new trial contains allegations related to the conduct of the Colleton County Clerk of Court, I find it would be inappropriate for documents in this case to be filed in Colleton County.

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED, that all documents, orders, and correspondence related to the resolution of the Defendant's motion for a new trial shall be filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court of South Carolina. Upon receipt of this order, the Clerk of Court of Colleton County shall transmit a copy of the Defendant's October 27 motion for a new trial together with any and all subsequent filings in the above cases to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of South Carolina.

The parties may file documents with the Supreme Court by electronic means in accordance with the provisions of the *RE: Methods of Electronic Filing and Service Under Rule 262 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules*, S.C. Sup. Ct. Order dated August 25, 2021. The parties shall supply Justice Toal with copies of all filed documents in whatever manner she directs.

Justice Toal shall provide the Clerk of the Supreme Court with any written orders for filing, and the Clerk shall provide written notice of filing and entry of those orders to the parties in the case.

Publicly available filings shall be made available in C-Track Public Access, which can be accessed at: <https://www.sccourts.org/ACMS/index.cfm>.



Donald W. Beatty
Chief Justice of South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina
January 3, 2024

cc:

Richard A. Harpootlian, Esquire
James Mixon Griffin, Esquire
Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire
Donald J. Zelenka, Esquire
Samuel Creighton Waters, Esquire
Rebecca Hill
The Honorable Jean Hoefer Toal