



**MCCUTCHEN VAUGHT GEDDIE & HUCKS, P.A.**  
*Your Lawyers At The Beach*

Luther O. McCutchen, III  
Gene P. Vaught, III  
Norton M. Geddie\*  
Luther O. "Mac" McCutchen, IV  
J. Scott Hucks  
Margaret L. Evans  
Ryan T. Patterson

\*ALSO LICENSED IN GEORGIA & MISSISSIPPI

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings, Clerk  
The South Carolina Court of Appeals  
1220 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

**RECEIVED**  
**Jan 29 2024**  
**SC Court of Appeals**

Re: *Joseph A. Stagar v. Deborah Cole*  
Civil Action No.: 2021-CP-26-5745  
Appellate Court Case No.: 2023-00822

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

This firm represents the Respondent in the above-captioned matter. We note that the status of this matter in the Court of Appeals is listed as "held in abeyance." We are inquiring as to why the case may be in abeyance at this time. Respondent served and filed her Initial Brief and Designation of Matters to be Included in the Record on Appeal on January 10, 2024.

The only reason we can see that the matter might be held in abeyance is Appellant's correspondence dated December 18, 2023 and stamped by the Court on December 21, 2023 stating he is making a "fourth and final attempt to settle" this dispute. His letter made no offer to settle the dispute and appears only to be an attempt to intimidate. During the Common Pleas case, Respondent engaged in mediation as required by Rule 1, SCADR. However, pursuant to Rule 3(b), SCADR, ADR is not required for appeals, and Respondent has no duty to engage in further settlement negotiations.

If the referenced correspondence is the reason for the abeyance, we respectfully request that the status of this matter be changed to one of an active matter. By copy of this letter by U.S. mail, Appellant is being notified of this communication with the Court.

With my regards, I am

Very truly yours,

MCCUTCHEN, VAUGHT, GEDDIE & HUCKS, P. A.

Luther O. McCutchen, III  
LOM:jgr

North Myrtle Beach Office:  
1016 2nd Avenue North, Suite 302  
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

Telephone 843-281-9831  
Fax 843-281-9562

Myrtle Beach Office:  
4610 Oleander Drive, Suite 203  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Telephone 843-449-3411  
Fax 843-449-2317  
Fax (Real Estate) 843-213-0391

Litchfield Office:  
28 Wall Street, Suite 201  
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Telephone 843-492-0099  
Fax 843-492-0299

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cc: Mr. Joseph A. Stagar