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Apr 08 2024

S.C. SUPREME COURT

EXHIBIT

A

Stepheno Alston
Ridgeland Correctional Institution
P.O. Box # 2039
Ridgeland, S.C. 29936


Attn: Ms. Kathrine H. Hudgins, Appellant Defender
South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Division of Appellant Defense
1330 Lady Street, Suite №. 401
Greenville, S.C. 29201-3332

RE: Stepheno Alston v. State, Case №.: 2020-001418, Termination as Counsel

Ms. Hudgins,

I am exercising my right to dismiss you as my attorney, pursuant to Rule – 1.16(a)(3), RPC of Rule – 407, SCACR. Your representation as my attorney on my Petition for Writ of Certiorari is no longer needed and you are hereby terminated for I do not want you as my attorney to perfect my appeal, due to your refusal to raise the two other issues that I raised at my PCR hearing. So I ask that you relieve yourself of any further obligations concerning my Petition for Writ of Certiorari. Attached to this letter is a motion to relieve you as my counsel and a Motion to Proceed as Pro-se that is being filed in the South Carolina Supreme Court.

Dated: April 8, 2024

 Respectfully,

Stepheno Alston, # 357159, Pro-se.

SA/jg
Enclosure
cc: Mark R. Farthing, Asst. Att’y. General
Hon. Patricia A. Howard, Clerk of S.C. Supreme Court

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Supreme Court**

**APPEAL FROM SPARTANBURG COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas
Hon. G. D. Morgan, Circuit Court Judge**

Case No. 2023-001011

Stepheno Alston. Petitioner-Appellant,

v.

The State of South Carolina. Respondent-Appellee.

NOTICE AND MOTION TO PROCEED AS PRO-SE

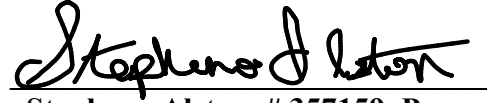
To: Mr. Mark R. Farthing, Asst. Att’y. General, Attorney for Respondent.

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that upon the affidavit of Stepheno Alston, sworn to on the 8th day of April 2024, proceeding as pro-se and can be heard, will move before the Honorable Supreme Court of South Carolina, pursuant to Rule – 240(b), SCACR, for an Order granting this Motion to Proceed as Pro-se in this matter. As grounds for this Motion, Petitioner-Appellant would state the following that: Petitioner-Appellant hereby wants to waive his right to counsel and wants to proceed as Pro-se, pursuant to *State v. Brewer*, 338 S.C. 117, 492 S.E.2d 97 (S.C., 1997) (citing *Faretta v. California*, 422 U.S. 806, 95 S.Ct. 2525 (1975), and on S.C. Code Ann. § 17-23-60, on his Petition for Writ of Certiorari, that’s before this Court.

In addition, Petitioner-Appellant wants to exercise his right to terminate his appellant attorney is pursuant to the clear language of Rule – 1.16(a)(3), RPC of Rule – 407, SCACR, and waives his right to counsel, and wants to proceed as pro-se, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 17-23-60 and his Sixth Amendment right to self-representation.

This Motion to Proceed as Pro-se is made and based on this notice and motion, and the affidavit of Stepheno Alston, copies of which are served with this notice, and on the pleadings, papers, records, and files in this action.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED on this 8th day of April 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stepheno Alston", written over a horizontal line.

**Stepheno Alston, # 357159, Pro-se.
Ridgeland Correctional Institution
P.O. Box # 2039
Ridgeland, S.C. 29936**

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AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION TO PROCEED AS PRO-SE

I, Stepheno Alston, being first duly sworn, state:

1. I am the Petitioner-Appellant in the above-entitled action, proceeding as pro-se, moves this Court to terminate the representation of my appointed counsel, Kathrine H. Hudgins, Appellant Defender, who is to be relieved of any further obligations in perfecting my Petition for Writ of Certiorari, for as I choose to proceed as pro-se.
2. This affidavit is made in support of Petitioner-Appellant’s motion to proceed as Pro-se, made pursuant to *State v. Brewer* 328 S.C. 117, 492 S.E.2d 97 (S.C., 1997) (citing *Faretta v. California*, 422 U.S. 806, 95 S.Ct. 2525 (1975), for an Order granting Petitioner-Appellant’s Motion to Proceed as Pro-se.
3. The waiver of my right to counsel is made knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.
4. Petitioner-Appellant is fully aware of the dangers and disadvantages of proceeding as pro-se.
5. Kathrine H. Hudgins, Esq., has failed to make reasonable efforts to raise two meritorious issues that Petitioner-Appellant has raised during his PCR hearing, insomuch as, her failure to do so, hinders Petitioner-Appellant appeal of the PCR Court’s Order of Dismissal.
6. Petitioner-Appellant wants to represent himself and to proceed as Pro-se for his Petition for Writ of Certiorari.
7. This motion is not made for delay and is being made in good faith.

