

RECEIVED

May 23 2024

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

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Appeal from Florence County  
The Honorable D. Craig Brown, Circuit Court Judge

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THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

v.

TIRIK JAQUAN JOHNSON-EPPS,

APPELLANT.

Appellate Case No. 2023-000179

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**MOTION FOR FOURTH EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE  
INITIAL BRIEF OF RESPONDENT AND DESIGNATION OF MATTER**

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The undersigned counsel would respectfully request a FOURTH thirty (30) day extension in which to file the Initial Brief of Respondent and Designation of Matter in the above-referenced case. Counsel for Appellant has graciously consented to extension requests through May 31, 2024. In support of this motion, counsel would respectfully show the Court the following circumstances:

Respondent's Initial Brief and Designation of Matter is due to be filed tomorrow, Friday, May 24, 2024. The undersigned attorney has had a number of state, and federal matters to attend to since April 23, 2024. Specifically:

1. Counsel filed the Respondent's Reply to Objections to the Report and Recommendation [ECF #58] in the matter of James C. Whaley vs. Nick Gallam, 4:23-cv-2473-JDA-TER on April 25, 2024;

2. Counsel also filed the Reply to Response in Opposition to Motion for Summary Judgment [ECF #46] in the matter of Darrell L. Goss vs. Shane D. Jackson, 2:23-cv-722-BHH-MGB on April 25, 2024;

3. Counsel appeared for oral argument on behalf of the State in the South Carolina Supreme Court in the matter of The State vs. Devin Jamel Johnson, Appellate Case No. 2023-000131, a Charleston County murder appeal matter on Thursday, May 2, 2024;

4. Counsel filed the Respondent's Response to Motion to Expedite [ECF #45] in the matter of Darrell L. Goss, #305517 vs. Shane D. Jackson, C/A No. 2:23-00722-BHH-MGB, also on May 2, 2024;

5. Counsel filed the Respondent's Response in Opposition to Applicant's Rule 59(e) motion in the matter of Patrick B. Walker, #296176 vs. State of South Carolina, 2022-CP-23-1759 on May 6, 2024; counsel has also drafted and submitted the proposed Amended Order of Dismissal in this matter;

6. Counsel also appeared for oral argument on behalf of the State in the matter of The State vs. Michael C. Barclay, Appellate Case No. 2021-000976, a Florence County murder appeal matter now pending in the South Carolina Court of Appeals. Said argument took place on Wednesday, May 8, 2024;

7. Counsel filed the Respondent's Reply to Response in Opposition to Motion for Summary Judgment [ECF #62] in the matter of George S. Branham, II vs. Bryan Stirling,

Director, South Carolina Department of Corrections; Shane Jackson, Warden, Lee Correctional Institution, C/A No. 0:23-745-SAL-PJG on May 13, 2024;

8. Counsel is also preparing the Return and Memorandum of Law in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment in the matter of Troy Hunter vs. Levern Cohen, Warden of Ridgeland Correctional Institution, C/A No. 4:24-cv-547-DCN-TER. Same is to be filed on May 29, 2024; and

9. Counsel has been involved in working **on other matters in state and federal court.**

WHEREFORE, for the following circumstances, counsel respectfully requests a FOURTH thirty (30) day extension of time to serve and file the Initial Brief of Respondent and Designation of Matter. This request is made in good faith, and not for the purposes of delay. This extension will make Respondent's Initial Brief due on June 24, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALAN WILSON  
Attorney General

DONALD J. ZELENKA  
Deputy Attorney General

MELODY J. BROWN  
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General  
S.C. Bar No. 14244

W. JOSEPH MAYE  
Assistant Attorney General  
S.C. Bar No. 100851

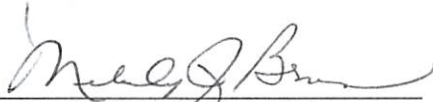
Office of the Attorney General  
Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1549  
(803) 734-6305

By: s/W. Joseph Maye  
W. JOSEPH MAYE

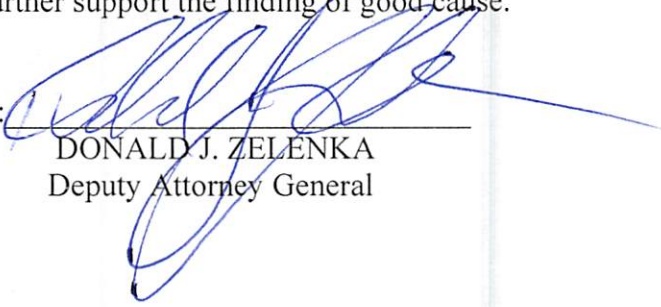
May 23, 2024.

ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

I support the finding of good cause.

By:   
MELODY J. BROWN  
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

I further support the finding of good cause.

By:   
DONALD J. ZELENSKA  
Deputy Attorney General

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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

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I, **Donna D'Alessio**, an employee of the Respondent and legal assistant to W. Joseph Maye, of counsel for the Respondent, hereby certify that as per the March 20, 2020 Order of the Chief Justice, the Fourth Extension of Time to File Initial Brief of Respondent and Designation of Matter has been forwarded to Appellant's counsel, Joanna K. Delany, Esq., via email today, May 23, 2024 to [RDudek@sccid.sc.gov](mailto:RDudek@sccid.sc.gov) and to his assistant at [spollard@sccid.sc.gov](mailto:spollard@sccid.sc.gov).

I further certify that all parties required by Rule to be served have been served.

This 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2024.

s/ Donna D'Alessio  
Donna D'Alessio, Legal Assistant to  
W. Joseph Maye,  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1549  
(803) 734-6305

## **Donna D'Alessio**

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**From:** Donna D'Alessio  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 1:14 PM  
**To:** RDudek@sccid.sc.gov; Pollard, Shelby  
**Subject:** Johnson-Epps, Tirik J. - Appellate Case No. 2023000179 - Motion for Fourth Extension of Time to file Initial Brief of Respondent  
**Attachments:** Johnson-Epps, Tirik J. - Appellate Case No. 2023-000179 - Motion for Fourth Extension of time to file Initial Brief of Respondent (03587235xD2C78).pdf

Dear Mr. Dudek:

Attached is the Respondent's Motion for a Fourth Extension of time to file Initial Brief of Respondent in the above matter. Same will be filed with the South Carolina Court of Appeals today.

Thank you.

Donna D'Alessio,  
Legal Assistant  
Office of the Attorney General  
State of South Carolina  
Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1549  
(803) 734-6305