



State of South Carolina
The Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

Benjamin H. Culbertson
Resident Circuit Judge

P. O. Box 479 (zip code 29442)
401 Cleland St. (zip code 29440)
Georgetown, South Carolina
Telephone: (843) 545-3030
Facsimile: (843) 545-3282
Email: bculbertsonj@sccourts.org

March 15, 2023

Via Email and U.S. Mail Delivery

William Edgar Salter, III, Sr. Asst. Attorney General Email: esalter@scag.gov
Office of the South Carolina Attorney General
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211-1549
esalter@scag.gov

RE: *Anthony Woods v. State* (Case No. 2018CP1400382)
Louis Michael Winkler, Jr. v. State (Case No. 2011CP2603907)

Dear Mr. Salter:

I sincerely apologize for the delay in responding to your letter to me dated February 3, 2023, requesting a status conference in the above referenced cases. I will schedule a status conference in these cases if you feel that necessary.

I have delayed scheduling a hearing in *Woods v. State* and have not issued a ruling in *Winkler v. State* due to the lingering questions and uncertainties surrounding the death penalty in South Carolina. I didn't want to rule on issues that may be moot and/or affected by pending appeals in other cases until the South Carolina Supreme Court has dealt with those issues; primarily the constitutionality of the current death penalty statute and the alternative methods of execution.

If you prefer, I can schedule a hearing in *Woods v. State* and issue a decision in *Winkler v. State*. Or, I can schedule a status conference in either or both cases. Please let me know what you prefer.

William Edgar Salter, III, Sr. Asst. Attorney General

March 15, 2023

Page Two

Again, I apologize in not notifying you sooner as to why I have delayed action in these matters.

With kindest regards and awaiting your response, I remain

Very truly yours,



Benjamin H. Culbertson

BHC/bhc

pc: Emily Paavola, Esquire (emily@justice360sc.org)
Lindsey S. Vann, Esquire (lindsey@justice360sc.org)
Hannah L. Freedman, Esquire (hannah@justice360sc.org)
Melody J. Brown, Sr. Asst. Deputy Attorney General (mbrown@scag.gov)