

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Ex Parte Tony T. Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of
Orangeburg, Petitioner,

In Re: John W. Gardner, The Gardner Law Firm, P.A.,
Respondent

Appellate Case No. 2024-001130

ORDER

Petitioner Tony T. Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Orangeburg has filed a petition for original jurisdiction and complaint pursuant to *In re Unauthorized Practice of Law Rules Proposed by South Carolina Bar*, 309 S.C. 304, 422 S.E.2d 123 (1992), asking this Court to determine whether Respondent's conduct constitutes the unauthorized practice of law in South Carolina.

The petition for original jurisdiction is granted. Because it appears resolution of this matter will require factual findings, we appoint the Honorable Edgar W. Dickson as a special referee to take evidence and issue a report containing proposed findings of fact and recommendations to this Court pursuant to section 14-3-340 of the South Carolina Code (2017). Judge Dickson shall schedule the time and place for any necessary hearings. If needed, Judge Dickson is also authorized to set a schedule for discovery.

Once the report is complete, Judge Dickson shall serve a copy of the report on each party and file the original with this Court. Each party shall have ten days after service of Judge Dickson's report to serve and file any exceptions to the report. Thereafter, this Court will establish a schedule for briefing the exceptions or, if appropriate, schedule a hearing in this matter.



FOR THE COURT C.J.

Columbia, South Carolina
September 17, 2024

cc:

Justin Tyler Bamberg

Adam Christopher Ness

Desa Ballard

Harvey M. Watson, III

Haley Alyse Hubbard

The Honorable Edgar W. Dickson