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**Dec 06 2024**

**SC Court of Appeals**

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

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APPEAL FROM COLLETON COUNTY

Court of General Sessions

HONORABLE Robert J. Bonds

Appellate Case No. 2024-001818

The State,.....Respondent

v.

Ryan Lenard Manigo,.....Appellant

**REPLY TO GRAY MEDIA GROUP, INC.’S MOTION TO DISMISS APPEAL**

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Gray Media Group, Inc. (Gray) again seeks to restrain this Court’s authority in considering the merits of Appellant’s Writ of Supersedeas by attempting to overstep this Court’s scheduling orders. This Court instructed the State, Gray, and any interested party to file returns to Appellant’s Writ of Supersedeas within fifteen days and for the Appellant to reply within ten days. All parties filed their briefings timely. This Court has also ordered that the circuit court’s sealed order, sealed transcript, and sealed exhibits be delivered to the Court on various deadlines. The Court is in receipt of all of those items. All orders from this Court related to scheduling have been complied with.

Gray attempts to treat this matter as a traditional appeal with ordinary briefing schedules pursuant to Rule 204 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. However, the Petitioner’s

Notice of Appeal was nothing more than a vehicle to have this Court consider the Appellant's Writ of Supersedeas pursuant to Rule 240 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. That rule gives this Court broad authority to set its own scheduling of briefings – which it has done – and which was complied with by Gray.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, this Court has further exercised its authority in considering this matter by granting Appellant's initial request for a stay in its Writ of Supersedeas.

This Court should deny Gray's Motion to Dismiss Appeal. In the alternative, this Court should order further briefings or find the Appellant's Notice of Appeal has served its objective and continue its consideration of Appellant's Writ of Supersedeas.<sup>2</sup>

December 6, 2024



Robert L. Bank, Jr., Attorney  
SC BAR # 101112  
Capital Trial Division  
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401  
Columbia, SC 29201

S. Boyd Young, Attorney  
SC BAR # 16959  
Capital Trial Division  
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401  
Columbia, SC 29201

Matthew Walker, Attorney  
SC BAR# 72535  
Fourteenth Circuit Public Defender  
319 N Lucas St,  
Walterboro, SC 29488

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 240(a) SCACR states “Where Rules 241 through 246 provide different or additional requirements or procedures, those requirements or procedures shall apply.” The rule sought to be enforced by Gray – Rule 208 – falls outside of this exception.

<sup>2</sup> This Court dismissed Appellant's Notice of Appeal in State v. Manigo (1) Appellate Case Number 2023-001747 and decided not to take action on Appellant's Writ of Supersedeas at that time. However, the Court was clear that was because a final ruling had not been made by the circuit court on one of the Appellant's issues. A final ruling on that issue has now been made.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

APPEAL FROM COLLETON COUNTY GENERAL

SESSIONS COURT

HONORABLE Robert J. Bonds JUDGE

Appellate Case No. 2024-001818

IN RE: State v. Ryan Lenard Manigo

The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that a true copy of the Reply to Gray Media Inc.'s Motion to Dismiss Appeal in the above-referenced case has been served upon opposing counsel by delivering same this date to his office at the Office of the 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office, the S.C. Attorney General's Office, the Peper Law Firm, P.A., and McGuireWoods, L.L.P.

December 6, 2024



Robert L. Bank, Jr., Attorney  
Capital Trial Division  
South Carolina Commission on  
Indigent Defense

Other Counsel of Record:

Sean Paul Thornton  
14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office  
PO Box 1880  
Bluffton, SC 29910  
Attorney for Respondent

Melody Jane Brown  
S.C. Attorney General's Office  
PO Box 11549  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Attorney for Respondent

Mark Andrew Peper, Sr.  
The Peper Law Firm, P.A.  
548 Savannah Highway  
Charleston, SC 29407  
Attorney for Gray Media Group, Inc.

Michael J. Anzelmo  
McGuireWoods L.L.P.  
1301 Gervais Street  
Suite 1310  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Attorney for Gray Media Group, Inc.