

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

The State, Respondent,

v.

Richard Alexander Murdaugh, Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2023-000392

ORDER

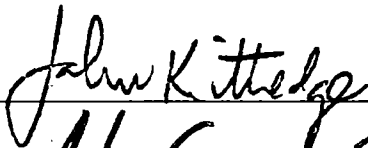
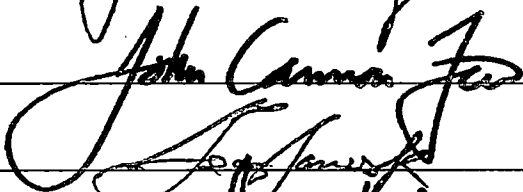
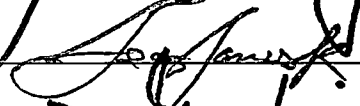
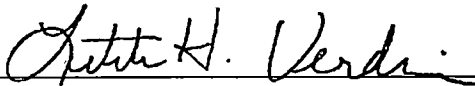
By order dated October 31, 2024, this Court denied the motion filed by Myra Crosby, a juror who was disqualified at Appellant's trial, to intervene in this matter for the limited purpose of unsealing the record of the hearing resulting in her disqualification. Ms. Crosby now seeks rehearing of that order.

We denied Ms. Crosby's motion because we did not have a Designation of Matter to be Included in the Record on Appeal, much less a Record on Appeal. Indeed, Appellant has only this week filed his Initial Brief and Designation. As such, there was no record before this Court to unseal. Because there was no other reason for Ms. Crosby to intervene in this appeal, we denied her motion on the ground that it was premature. There is still no Record on Appeal in this matter, but it appears the removal of Ms. Crosby will not be an issue on appeal for which the transcript of the hearing resulting in her removal will be necessary.

Further, by order dated November 2, 2023, the circuit court granted Ms. Crosby's motion to unseal the record of her disqualification hearing, subject to the condition that neither Ms. Crosby's counsel nor Ms. Crosby "shall further publish or disseminate the materials." If Ms. Crosby disagreed with the conditions placed on her by the circuit court, she should have appealed that ruling. However, no appeal was taken. We, therefore, cannot rule or comment upon the merits of the trial court's order sealing this record.

On July 12, 2024, Ms. Crosby moved the circuit court to unseal the records "for all public purposes." This motion has not been decided by the circuit court.

Because there is no record before us to unseal and the circuit court has not ruled on Ms. Crosby's latest request to unseal the record, we adhere to our decision denying Ms. Crosby's motion as premature and deny her petition for rehearing.

	C.J.
	J.
	J.
	J.
	J.

Columbia, South Carolina
December 12, 2024

cc:

Richard A. Harpootlian
Phillip Donald Barber
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Margaret Nicole Fox
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