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MAR 24 2025

The Supreme Court of South Carolina SC SUPREME COURT  
Office of Bar Admissions

PATRICIA A. HOWARD  
CLERK OF COURT

KATHLEEN "TINA" BRYANT  
MANAGER, OFFICE OF BAR  
ADMISSIONS

POST OFFICE BOX 11330  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211  
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1317  
FAX: (803) 734-0394

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Patricia A. Howard  
Clerk of Court, Supreme Court of South Carolina  
1231 Gervais Street  
Columbia, S.C. 29201

RE: Mikal D. Mahdi v. Bryan P. Sterling, Commissioner, et al.

Case No.: 2025-000524

Dear Ms. Howard:

I certify that the Office of Bar Admissions has received a verified application requesting Heather Marie Donato be admitted *pro hac vice* in the above matter. The \$250 filing fee for the applicant has been paid.

Sincerely,

M.J. Thames  
Bar Admissions Coordinator

cc: Heather Marie Donato  
Stuart M. Andrews, Jr.

MAR 21 2025

**VERIFIED APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION PRO HAC VICE  
IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA S.C. SUPREME COURT**

Please type your answers in the space provided. Provide an answer for every question asked. In your own handwriting, sign in all spaces where a signature is required (no e-signatures). The accompanying certificate of good standing should not be older than 90 days at the time of the filing of this application.

<u>Mikal D. Mahdi</u>	<u>2025-000524</u>	<u>South Carolina Supreme Court</u>
Plaintiff	Case No.	Tribunal
vs.		
<u>Bryan P. Sterling, Commissioner, South Carolina Department of Corrections</u>	Mailing Address of Tribunal:	<u>1231 Gervais St</u>
Defendant		<u>Columbia, SC 29201</u>

Comes now Heather Marie Donato, applicant herein, and respectfully represents the following:

1. Applicant resides at:  
93 Wyckoff Ave, Apt. 2B  
 Street Address  
Brooklyn                      Kings                      NY                      11237  
 City                                      County                      State                      Zip Code  
315-771-8417  
 Telephone

2. Applicant is an attorney and a member of the law firm of (or practices law under the name of)  
Winston & Strawn, LLP, with offices at  
200 Park Avenue  
 Street Address  
New York                      New York                      NY                      10166  
 City                                      County                      State                      Zip Code  
(212) 294-6700                      (212) 294-4700                      hdonato@winston.com  
 Primary Telephone                      Cell Phone                      Fax Number                      Email Address

3. Applicant has been retained personally or as a member of the above-named law firm by Time Served, Criminal Practice Clinic at the University of South Carolina, and The Gault Center ("Amici Curiae") to provide legal representation in connection with the above case now pending before the above-named tribunal of the State of South Carolina.

4. Since July of 2024, Applicant has been, and presently is, a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of the District of Columbia or the State of New York where Applicant regularly practices law. Attached is a certificate of good standing dated within the last 90 days from the bar of the highest court of the District of Columbia or the State where applicant regularly practices law. It is not necessary to provide a certificate of good standing from all courts before which you are admitted.

5. List all courts before which Applicant has been admitted to practice law, including United States District Courts; United States Circuit Courts of Appeals; the Supreme Court of the United States; and state courts or the District of Columbia.

Court:	Date Admitted:
New York State Court	7/16/2024

Is Applicant presently a member in good standing of the bars of those courts listed above? List any court named in the preceding paragraph that applicant is no longer admitted to practice before.

Yes

6. Is Applicant presently subject to any suspension or disbarment proceedings, or has Applicant been formally notified of any complaints pending before a disciplinary agency? If yes, give particulars, e.g., jurisdiction, court date.

No

7. Has Applicant had any application for admission *pro hac vice* in this or any other jurisdiction denied or any *pro hac vice* admission revoked? If yes give particulars, e.g., date, court, docket number, judge, circumstances; attach a copy of any order of denial or revocation.

No

8. Has Applicant had any certificate or privilege to appear and practice before any court or administrative body suspended or revoked? If yes, give particulars, e.g., date, court, administrative body, date of suspension and reinstatement.

No

9. Please be aware that local counsel must be Rule 403 certified. Local counsel of record associated with Applicant in this case is Stuart M. Andrews, Jr. of the Burnette Shutt & McDaniel, PA law firm, which has offices at:

P. O. Box 1929, 912 Lady Street  
 Street Address  
Columbia Richland SC 29202  
 City County State Zip Code  
803-904-7915 803-904-7910 sandrews@burnetteshutt.law  
 Primary Telephone Cell Phone Fax Number Email Address

400

South Carolina Bar Number  
(You must provide Bar Number)

10. Has Applicant previously filed an application to appear *pro hac vice* in South Carolina cases? If yes, give case name and status of litigation, date of application, local counsel of record in each case, and state whether application is pending or was granted.

No

11. Does Applicant agree to comply with the applicable statutes, laws and rules of the State of South Carolina and familiarize him/herself with and comply with the South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct? Does Applicant consent to the jurisdiction of the South Carolina courts and Commission on Lawyer Conduct.

Yes

12. Applicant respectfully requests to be admitted to practice in the above-named tribunal for this case only.

DATED this 19 day of March, 20 25

Heather Donato  
APPLICANT

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S.C. SUPREME COURT

VERIFICATION

STATE OF New York )

COUNTY OF New York )

I, Heather Marie Donato, do hereby swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am the applicant in the above-styled matter; that I have read the foregoing application and know the contents thereof; and that the contents are true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and that as to those matters I believe them to be true. I understand that I am under a continuing duty to promptly update the information provided in the application until the tribunal has ruled on the motion for admission pro hac vice. Further, if the motion is granted, I understand that I am under a continuing duty to promptly update the information provided in the application as long as I continue to appear pro hac vice in the action or proceeding. Any updated information shall be provided to both the tribunal that granted the motion and to the tribunal in which the action or proceeding may then be pending.

Heather Donato  
APPLICANT/AFFIANT

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19 day of March, 20 25

Micol Shorn  
(Notary Signature)

NICOLE THOMAS  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 01BE6249951  
Qualified in New York County  
Commission Expires October 17, 2027

Notary Public for the State of New York

My Commission Expires: October 17, 2027

LOCAL COUNSEL CONSENT

I hereby consent, as local counsel of record, to the association of applicant in this cause pursuant to Rules Governing Admission *Pro Hac Vice* to the South Carolina Bar.

DATED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of MARCH, 20 25

Shantel Andrews  
LOCAL COUNSEL OF RECORD

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

hand delivery

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of this application upon the South Carolina Supreme Court by ~~mail~~ addressed to: South Carolina Supreme Court Office of Bar Admissions, ~~PO Box 11330~~, Columbia, SC 29211, accompanied by payment of the \$250 filing fee payable to the South Carolina Supreme Court on this

21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 20 25

Kmilyk Abucrombie  
Paralegal - Burnette Shutt & McDaniel, PA

1231 Gervais St.  
Columbia, SC 29201



*Appellate Division of the Supreme Court  
of the State of New York  
Second Judicial Department*

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*I, Darrell M. Joseph, Clerk of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Second Judicial Department, do hereby certify that*

*Heather Marie Donato*

*was duly licensed and admitted to practice as an Attorney and Counselor at Law in all the courts of this State on **July 16, 2024**, has duly taken and subscribed the oath of office prescribed by law, has been enrolled in the Roll of Attorneys and Counselors at Law on file in this office, is duly registered with the Office of Court Administration, and according to the records of this Court is currently in good standing as an Attorney and Counselor-at-Law.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand in the City of Brooklyn on March 14, 2025.*



*Darrell M. Joseph*

*Clerk of the Court*



Appellate Division  
Supreme Court of the State of New York  
Second Judicial Department  
45 Monroe Place  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201  
(718) 875-1300

HECTOR D. LASALLE  
PRESIDING JUSTICE

DARRELL M. JOSEPH  
CLERK OF THE COURT

KENNETH BAND  
MELISSA KRAKOWSKI  
DEPUTY CLERKS

WENDY STYNES  
LAUREN G. DOME  
BRIAN E. KENNEDY  
RIAD P. WILLIAMS  
ASSOCIATE DEPUTY CLERKS

To Whom It May Concern

An attorney admitted to practice by this Court may request a certificate of good standing, which is the only official document this Court issues certifying to an attorney's admission and good standing.

An attorney's registration status, date of admission and disciplinary history may be viewed through the attorney search feature on the website of the Unified Court System.

New York State does not register attorneys as active or inactive.

An attorney may request a disciplinary history letter from the Attorney Grievance Committee of the Second Judicial Department.

Bar examination history is available from the New York State Board of Law Examiners.

Instructions, forms and links are available on this Court's website.

Darrell M. Joseph  
Clerk of the Court