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SC Court of Appeals

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS**

**APPEAL FROM OCONEE COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Judge

**Appellate Case No. 2024-00739
Common Pleas Case No. 2022-CP-3700182**

Dorothy Pierce,

Appellant,

v.

**Jerry Edwards; Edwards Group
Holdings, Inc.; Edwards Printing;
Richard Hunt McDuff; MJM Law LLC;
Riley Morningstar; The Journal
Newspaper; and Hal Welch,**

Respondents.

JOURNAL RESPONDENTS' INITIAL BRIEF

Respondents Jerry Edwards, Edwards Group Holdings, Inc., Edwards Printing, Riley Morningstar, The Journal Newspaper, and Hal Welch (together, the “Journal Respondents”), pursuant to Rule 208(b)(6) of the South Carolina Rules of Appellate Practice, hereby “adopt by reference all . . . part[s] of the brief” submitted in this matter on March 7, 2025, by Respondents Richard Hunt McDuff and MJM Law LLC. The Journal Respondents further state that, to the extent Appellant attempts in this appeal to challenge on an interlocutory basis any civil discovery orders entered below that pertain to the claims still pending against the Journal Respondents, such orders do not “involve the merits of the case and may not be appealed.” *Tucker v. Honda of S.C.*

Mfg., Inc., 354 S.C. 574, 577 (2003); *Patterson v. Spector Broad. Corp.*, 287 S.C. 249, 249 (1985) (“This appeal is from an order compelling discovery which is interlocutory and not directly appealable.”); *Lowndes Prod., Inc. v. Brower*, 262 S.C. 431, 433 (1974) (“ordinarily, an order denying or compelling discovery is not directly appealable”); *Wallace v. Interamerican Tr. Co.*, 246 S.C. 563, 568 (1965) (challenged order “was simply a ruling made by the court in the progress of the cause requiring the pre-trial production of books and records deemed necessary to a proper and expeditious trial of the merits,” and was “no more involved the merits than a ruling upon the admissibility of evidence, and is not appealable before final judgment”).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court should reject this putative appeal as to the Journal Respondents because any underlying orders relating as to them are not immediately appealable.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of May 2025.

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