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**Jul 21 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In the Court of Appeals

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Appeal from Aiken County  
The Honorable Maite Murphy, Circuit Court Judge

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THE STATE,

Respondent,

v.

KEMONTEE DEVONTA BLOCKER,

Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2024-000825

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**MOTION FOR THIRD EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE  
INITIAL BRIEF OF RESPONDENT AND  
DESIGNATION OF MATTER**

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The undersigned counsel would respectfully request a thirty (30) day extension in which to serve and file the Initial Brief of Respondent and Designation of Matter in the above-referenced case. Opposing counsel has graciously consented to all extension requests through July 31, 2025. In support of this motion, counsel would respectfully show the Court the following:

Respondent's Initial Brief and Designation of Matter is due today, Monday, July 21, 2025 as per this Court's Order granting Respondent's second extension request. The undersigned attorney for the Respondent has had a number of state and federal matters to attend to since June 2025 when the Court granted Respondent's second extension. Specifically:

1. Counsel prepared and filed the Return and Memorandum of Law in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment on June 26, 2025, in the matter of Gerald Edwards vs. Tonya James, Warden, Case No. 5:25-cv-1286-MGL-KDW, a matter pending in this Court;

2. Counsel prepared and filed the Reply to Objections to the Report and Recommendation on July 7, 2025, in the matter of Mickey Markell Johnson v. Warden, Broad River Correctional Institution, Case No. 0:24-1623-TMC-PJG, a matter pending in the S. C. Court of Appeals;

3. Counsel prepared and filed the Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Appeals on July 8, 2025 in the matter of The State v. Tirik Jaquan Johnson-Epps, Appellate Case No. 2023-000179, a matter now pending in the South Carolina Supreme Court;

4. Counsel prepared and filed the Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Appeals on July 8, 2025 in the matter of The State v. Quinterris Javon Carmichael, Appellate Case No. 2023-000162, a matter now pending in the South Carolina Supreme Court;

5. Counsel has been and continues to prepare for the evidentiary hearing in the Capital Post Conviction Relief case of Norman Starnes v. The State of South Carolina, C/A No. 2011-CP-32-830, a matter pending in the Circuit Court set to commence on July 28, 2025. Said efforts have included motions practice, status conference(s), discovery review and production, witness interviews, legal research, record review, etc;

6. Counsel filed the Reply to Response in Opposition to Motion for Summary Judgment today, July 21, 2025 in the matter of Devon Michael Ford v. Lavern Cohen, Warden of Ridgeland Correctional Institution, Case No. 8:25-cv-0593-JD-WSB, a matter pending in the District Court;

7. Counsel has been involved in working on other matters in state and federal court and this Motion is made not for the purposes of delay but due to the foregoing.

Due to counsel's involvement in these and other matters pending in court, counsel has been unable to timely complete the Initial Brief of Respondent and Designation of Matter.

WHEREFORE, counsel respectfully requests a thirty (30) day extension of time to serve and file the Initial Brief of Respondent and Designation of Matter. This request is made in good faith, and not for the purposes of delay.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALAN WILSON  
Attorney General

DONALD J. ZELENKA  
Deputy Attorney General


MELODY J. BROWN  
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General  
S.C. Bar No: 14244

W. JOSEPH MAYE  
Assistant Attorney General  
S.C. Bar No: 100851  
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Post Office Box 11549  
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(803) 734-6305

By: s/W. Joseph Maye  
W. Joseph Maye  
Assistant Attorney General  
ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

July 21, 2025

I support the finding of good cause.

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
MELODY J. BROWN  
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

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The undersigned certifies that pursuant to Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR and the Supreme Court order April 24, 2024, the Third Extension of Time to file the Initial Brief and Designation of Matter have been forwarded to Appellant's counsel, Lara M. Caudy, Esquire, via email today, July 21, 2025 to [LCaudy@sccid.sc.gov](mailto:LCaudy@sccid.sc.gov) and to her assistant, Sara McInnis at [SMcinnis@sccid.sc.gov](mailto:SMcinnis@sccid.sc.gov).

I further certify that all parties required by Rule to be served have been served.

This is the 21st day of July 2025.

s/W. Joseph Maye  
W. Joseph Maye  
Assistant Attorney General

## Brandy Rankin

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**From:** Brandy Rankin  
**Sent:** Monday, July 21, 2025 1:50 PM  
**To:** Caudy, Lara  
**Cc:** Mcinnis, Sara; Joe Maye  
**Subject:** The State v. Kemontee Devonta Blocker - Third Motion for Extension to file the Initial Brief of Respondent and Designation of Matter - Appellate Case No. 2024-000825  
**Attachments:** Blocker 3rd Extension to file IBOR-DOM.pdf

Dear Ms. Caudy,

Please find attached the Respondent's third Motion for Extension to file the Initial Brief & Designation of Matter, along with the Proof of Service. These documents will be filed today with the South Carolina Court of Appeals along with a copy of this email. Thanks.

Sincerely,

*Brandy Rankin*

Brandy Rankin, Legal Assistant to W. Joseph Maye  
Office of the Attorney General  
Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
803-734-6305



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