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S.C. SUPREME COURT

ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 22, 2025

The Honorable Patricia A. Howard
Clerk of Court, S.C. Supreme Court
Post Office Box 11330
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Ricky Lee Blackwell v. State of South Carolina
Appellate Case No: 2025-001377

Dear Ms. Howard:

Please accept this letter in lieu of a formal return to the motion for appointment of outside counsel. The State leaves the determination of any conflict, and whether appointment of outside counsel is necessary, to this Court's discretion in consideration of representations made in the anticipated response to be filed by the Division of Appellate Defense. The State does not agree with the assertion of general, *per se* conflict of all attorneys but lacks knowledge of the availability or adequacy for determination of shared information, or the availability of procedures and/or protective walls within the Division that may or may not be sufficient for representation; consequently, the State respectfully declines to take a position.

Sincerely,

Melody J. Brown
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

MJB/abb

cc: Lindsey S. Vann, Esquire (*via email only*)
Rosalind S.D. Major, Esquire (*via email only*)