

**RECEIVED**

**Jul 22 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

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Appeal from the Cherokee County  
Court of General Sessions

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Appellate Case No. 2025-000603

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

APPELLANT,

v.

JOHN BENDARIAN BONNER

RESPONDENT.

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**MOTION FOR FOURTH EXTENSION OF TIME**

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Appellant, John Bendarian Bonner, through undersigned counsel, hereby requests an extension of time in which to file and serve his Initial Brief and Designation of Matter, currently due to be filed on July 28, 2025. Specifically, undersigned counsel requests an additional thirty (30) days in which to file the Initial Brief and Designation of Matter. In support of this motion, undersigned counsel would show:

1. This Court granted an initial extension of time on April 29, 2025, extending the filing deadline until May 28, 2025. This Court granted a second extension of time on May 22, 2025, extending the filing deadline until June 27, 2025, and a third extension of time on June 25, 2025, extending the deadline until July 28, 2025.
2. Since the Court granted its third extension, both Attorney Major and Attorney Cruz had unexpected deaths in their families which required them to take bereavement leave and travel out of state to assist with family matters.

3. Additionally, undersigned counsel, Lindsey S. Vann, also represents multiple death sentenced individuals whose cases have been very active over the last month. Attorney Vann is lead counsel in *Starnes v. State*, 2011-CP-3200830, and has been preparing for an evidentiary hearing scheduled to begin on July 28, 2025. The hearing is currently scheduled to last four to five days and has required significant preparation for the many witnesses who will be called. Attorney Major is the mitigation investigator in *State v. Starnes* and has been assisting with preparation for the evidentiary hearing. Attorney Vann is also counsel in *Aleksey v. State*, 2024-000140, and the Supreme Court of South Carolina recently accepted certiorari. Mr. Aleksey's brief is currently due on August 4, 2025.
4. Though undersigned counsel has begun preparing the initial brief and designation of matter in this case, given their other case obligations, counsel will not be able to fully complete these filings before the deadline on July 28, 2025. Undersigned counsel will take steps to ensure no further extensions are requested. Moreover, the evidentiary hearing which has been taking up the majority of counsel's time should conclude by August 1, 2025, which will significantly free up counsel's time.
5. Undersigned counsel sought consent to the above-requested extension of time from counsel for Respondent who indicated that they would not oppose an extension.
6. For the above reasons, Appellant respectfully submits that an extension of time is warranted based on the extraordinary circumstances described above, as required under The Supreme Court of South Carolina's order dated March 18, 2009, and requests this Court extend the deadline for filing the Appellant's Initial Brief and Designation of Matter an additional thirty days.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Rosalind S.D. Major

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July 22, 2025

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<sup>1</sup> Allison Franz's signature appears on this motion to comply with the requirements of Section 4 of the Supreme Court of South Carolina's order dated March 18, 2009, which requires the next most senior attorney from counsel's firm to sign as a certification that she believes the extension is warranted and that there are extraordinary circumstances shown to justify the extension request. Ms. Franz is not assisting in the preparation of the initial brief or designation of matter in this case.

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.....APPELLANT,

v.

JOHN BENDARIAN BONNER .....RESPONDENT.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**  
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The undersigned certifies that a copy of Applicant’s Motion for Fourth Extension of Time was served was served by email to the AIS email addresses, pursuant to Section (b) of the Supreme Court of South Carolina’s May 6, 2022 Order, this 22nd day of July, 2025, upon the following:

- Mark Farthing, Esquire: mfarthing@scag.gov
- Alan Wilson, Esquire: agwilson@scag.gov
- Barry Barnette, Esquire: bbarnette@spartanburgcounty.org

s/ Rosalind S.D. Major  
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