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Aug 20 2025

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

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

THE STATE,

Respondent,

v.

KEMONTEE DEVONTA BLOCKER,

Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2024-000825

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

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 August 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, Wednesday, August 20, 2025 as per this Court's Order granting Respondent's third extension request. The undersigned attorney for the Respondent has had a number of state and federal matters to attend to since July

1. Counsel prepared and litigated in 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; the hearing was from July 28, 2025, through July 30, 2025. Preparation for the hearing included motions practice, status conference(s), discovery review and production, witness interviews, legal research, record review, etc;

2. 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;

3. Counsel filed the Final Brief of Respondent on August 6, 2025, in the matter of The State v. Darius Grant Dickey, Appellate Case No. 2024-000145, a matter now pending in this Court;

4. Counsel filed the Reply to Objections to the Report and Recommendation on August 11, 2025, in the matter of Donald A. Partaka v. Warden of Allendale Correctional Institution, C/A No. 2:24-06409-SAL-MGB, a matter pending in the District Court;

5. Counsel filed the Reply to Objections to the Report and Recommendation on August 11, 2025, in the matter of Jonathan Michael Brown v. Warden of Perry Correctional Institution, C/A No. 8:24-05077-JFA-WSB, a matter pending in the District Court;

6. Counsel has been preparing for the capacity to be executed evidentiary hearing in the Capital Post Conviction Relief case of Steven V. Bixby v. The State of South Carolina, C/A No. 2024-CP-01-375, a matter pending in the Circuit Court set to commence on August 21, 2025. Said efforts have included motions practice, status conference(s), discovery review and production, witness interviews, legal research, record review, etc;

7. Counsel prepared and filed the Motion for Summary Judgment and Return and Memorandum of Law in Support of Summary Judgment on August 14, 2025, in the matter of Franklin Dover v. Warden John Palmer, C/A No. 9:25-cv-2574-JFA-MHC, a matter pending in the District Court;

8. 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.

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

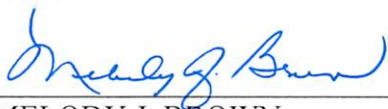
W. JOSEPH MAYE
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Post Office Box 11549
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(803) 734-6305

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

August 20, 2025

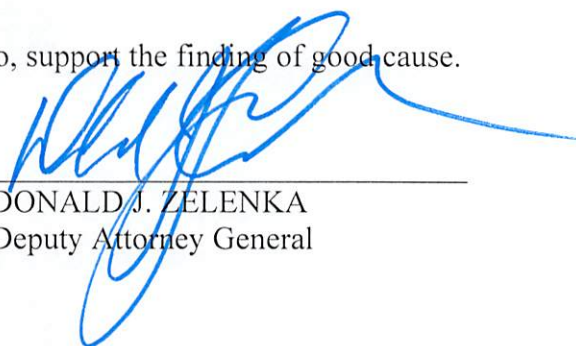
[signature page continues next page]

I support the finding of good cause.

By: 

MELODY J. BROWN
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

I, too, support the finding of good cause.

By: 

DONALD J. ZELENKA
Deputy Attorney General

August 20, 2025

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PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that pursuant to Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR and the Supreme Court order April 24, 2024, the Fourth 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, August 20, 2025 to LCaudy@sccid.sc.gov and to her assistant, Sara McInnis at SMcinnis@sccid.sc.gov.

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

This is the 20th day of August 2025.

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

Brandy Rankin

From: Brandy Rankin
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 11:02 AM
To: Caudy, Lara
Cc: Mcinnis, Sara; Joe Maye
Subject: The State v. Kemontee Devonta Blocker - Appellate Case No. 2024-000825 - Fourth Motion for Extension to file the Initial Brief of Respondent & Designation of Matter
Attachments: SIGNED 4th Extension to file IBOR-DOM - Blocker.pdf

Dear Ms. Caudy,

Please find attached the respondent's Fourth Motion for Extension to file the Initial Brief & Designation of Matter, along with the Proof of Service. These documents will be filed today, August 20, 2025 with the South Carolina Court of Appeals, with a copy of this email. Have a great day!

Sincerely,

Brandy Rankin

Brandy Rankin, Legal Assistant to W. Joseph Maye
Office of the Attorney General
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