

Ray Edward Chestnut, SCDC# 304094  
Kirkland Reception and Evaluation Center  
4344 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29210

August 17, 2025

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SC Court of Appeals

Chief Justice  
1220 senate street  
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: miscarriage of Justice in the matter of  
State vs. Ray Edward Chestnut  
Indictment no. 2025-GS-26-631

Dear chief Justice:

I am writing seeking attention and justice because on July 14-15, 2025 in the court of General Sessions, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Horry County, South Carolina I was wrongfully convicted in the above-reference matter.

I received a unfair jury trial before Judge Eugene P. Warr.

My trial involved a miscarriage of justice and racial discrimination.

I was not afforded my right to pick my jury or be involved in the jury selection (voir dire) of my trial which resulted in a ALL white jury being picked by the solicitor (Joshua David Holford) and defense attorney (Brett Allen Perry) without my consent. I did not freely, knowingly, or voluntarily waive my rights in this cause. This violated the South Carolina Rules on Criminal Procedure and my due process.

I was provided ineffective assistance of counsel. I was not afforded effective assistance of counsel by my trial attorney Mr. Perry. I filed a motion to relieve counsel which Mr. Perry joined in on my motion but the trial court denied in error. Me and Mr. Perry informed the court that there were conflict of interest issues between us based on the allegations I stated in my motion to relieve counsel filed on or about June 2, 2025, and again on or about June 11, 2025. Specifically, I stated that Mr. Perry threatened me and my girlfriend (Kanetta McCoy) as they were leaving the courthouse by stating he would slap us both if we didn't shut the fxxk up. My motion to relieve counsel was also supported by affidavit from Ms. McCoy. However, Mr. Perry informed the court that me and his lawyer-client relationship has deminished so bad that he could not

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adequately represent me or prepare a defense against the charges. The trial court erred by refusing to relieve Mr. Perry as counsel. I was forced to trial without adequate representation by Mr. Perry. This violated my 6th amendment right as guaranteed by the South Carolina constitution and the laws of South Carolina.

I was not afforded adequate time to prepare my defense against the charge (trafficking fentanyl) as he did not receive or was allowed to review all of the evidence against me. Specifically, the video surveillance of the alleged controlled buy, I did not see or wasn't provided the video surveillance of the alleged controlled buy until the day of trial. I informed my attorney Mr. Perry "weeks before trial" (I have the text messages) that I wanted to see the video surveillance (of alleged controlled buy) so that I could prepare my defense but Mr. Perry failed to produce the video until the day trial began. This violated my due process and the S.C. Rules on Criminal Procedure. The S.C. Rules on Criminal Procedure provides that all evidence against a defendant must be made available to him at least 12 days before trial.

I was not afforded my right to call all witnesses I wished to call to testify on my behalf during trial. Specifically, prior to the onset of trial, I produced and provided the court and the solicitor (Joshua Holford) through my attorney Mr. Perry (while in open court) a list of four (4) potential witnesses (Kanetta McCoy, Rachael Hernandez, Amanda McKnight, and Dixie Sauls) "along with each witness contact information" who I wanted called to testify at trial concerning the events that arose of the alleged controlled buy but the trial court or Mr. Perry failed to issue any subpoenas for the witnesses to appear in court. This made it difficult for me to present my defense against the charge. Mr. Perry was aware of my witnesses weeks before trial (I have text messages). Unfortunately, once two (2) of the witnesses (Kanetta McCoy and Rachael Hernandez) actually appeared and testified due to a lack of subpoenas being issued by the court or Mr. Perry. In any event, if Amanda McKnight and Dixie Sauls would have been called to present testimony during trial the outcome of the jury trial could have possibly resulted in a different outcome for me because Amanda and Dixie would have testified that they saw the confidential informant (CI) pick up something off the ground after he exited

his vehicle and before he walked over to my vehicle driver side window. This violated my due process rights as well as the laws of South Carolina.

I should have received a mistrial when I requested through my attorney Mr. Perry that the court issue a mistrial after the solicitor's witness (detective Michael J. Manemeit, Jr.) testified and stated that he reviewed or retrieved my prior booking reports from the J. Reuben Long Detention Center in order to identify me to the CI. This statement made by detective Manemeit was unrelated to the charge (trafficking fentanyl on August 22, 2023) and should not have been known to the jury as it allowed the jury to know or believe that I had a prior arrest record. The fact that I exercised my 5th amendment right and chose not to speak or take the stand during trial violated my rights when detective Manemeit spoke about my booking reports from J. Reuben Long Detention Center. The court erred when failing to grant a mistrial on this basis. This violated the laws of S.C.

For another reason, I should have received a mistrial when I requested through my attorney Mr. Perry that the court issue a mistrial after there were known discrepancies in the drug type and/or analysis. Specifically, the arrest warrant stated that the alleged narcotic tested positive for heroin, but during trial the drug forensic expert (called to testify by the solicitor) testified that the narcotic tested positive for cocaine and fentanyl. My attorney Mr. Perry questioned the drug chemist and asked if she had the reports to show or prove that the machine or equipment used to test the alleged narcotic were working properly or accurately, but she advised the court that she was unable to provide or produce any reports to that affect. Mr. Perry argued that without the report of a proper running or working machine or equipment in this case - no one can really say or conclude what the alleged narcotic is or was during the course of drug testing. The trial court erred by refusing to grant a mistrial in this case given the circumstances.

My conviction and sentence should therefore be vacated.  
I believe I am entitled to a new trial. I am  
innocent. I was wrongfully convicted.

Thank you for your attention in this  
matter. I greatly appreciate it.

Respectfully submitted,

151 Ray Chestnut  
Ray Edward Chestnut

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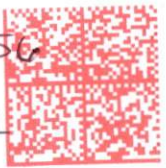
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Attn: Chief Justice  
of  
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Columbia, SC 29201

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