

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Case No.: 2025-001673

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

Respondent,

v.

APRIL JARQVAVIA LILLISTON,

Appellant.

RECEIVED

SEP 02 2025

SC Court of Appeals

MOTION TO RELIEVE COUNSEL AND PROCEED PRO SE

NOW COMES the Appellant, April Jarqvania Lilliston, who respectfully moves this Honorable Court, pursuant to Rule 267, SCACR and other applicable authorities, for an Order relieving Julie Shivers, Assistant Public Defender, as appellate counsel of record and granting the Appellant leave to proceed **pro se** in the above-referenced matter.

As grounds for this Motion, Appellant respectfully shows the following:

1. Appellant was convicted and sentenced on **August 1, 2025**, in Berkeley County General Sessions Court before the Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson.
2. Appellant timely filed a **Notice of Appeal**, which was acknowledged by the Court of Appeals.
3. Julie Shivers was appointed to represent Appellant on appeal. Despite this assignment, there has been a **significant breakdown in communication** between counsel and Appellant.
4. Counsel has failed to pursue critical motions or filings necessary to preserve Appellant's rights, including a timely and properly noticed **Motion to Reconsider Sentence** and efforts to have the court consider issues raised at trial.
5. Additionally, the Appellant has filed a formal complaint with the **Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC)** outlining concerns regarding ineffective assistance of counsel and potential misconduct.
6. A true and correct copy of this ODC complaint is attached hereto and incorporated as **Exhibit A**.


7. Appellant has continued to advocate diligently for her rights and has taken the initiative to file necessary documents and communicate directly with the Court and Clerk's Office.
8. Based on the above, Appellant respectfully requests that she be permitted **Pro Se** and that Attorney Julie Shivers be relieved of further obligation in this appeal.

WHEREFORE, Appellant respectfully prays this Honorable Court grant the following relief:

1. Issue an Order relieving Attorney Julie Shivers as appellate counsel.
2. Permit Appellant to proceed Pro Se
3. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

April Jarqvia Lilliston

Appellant, Pro Se 

P.O. Box 5

Sandy Springs, SC 29677

Phone: (786)234-2201

Date: 8/28/2025

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, April Jarqvia Lilliston, hereby certify that I have served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Motion to Relieve Counsel and Proceed Pro Se**, along with attached **Exhibit A (ODC Complaint)** by depositing the same in the United States Mail, certified with proper postage affixed, addressed as follows:

Rachel Janowski

Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

300-B California Avenue

Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Julie Shivers

Berkeley County Public Defender's Office

105 Gullledge Street

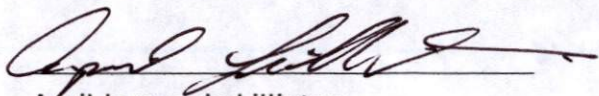
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

This 28th day of August 2025.

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SEP 02 2025

SC Court of Appeals



April Jarqvia Lilliston
Appellant, Pro Se



(Exhibit A) Complaint file with
Office of Disciplinary Counsel

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

William M. Blicht, Jr.
Disciplinary Counsel

Holly M. Hadden
Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

Post Office Box 12159
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Telephone: (803) 734-2038
Fax: (803) 734-1964

June 2, 2025

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

April J. Lilliston
P.O. Box 5
Sandy Springs, SC 29677

RE: Lawyer: Julie Marie Shivers, Esquire
File Number: 25-DE-L-0687

Dear Ms. Lilliston:

We have received your complaint against Julie Marie Shivers, Esquire. We will conduct an investigation into the matters you have reported. You will not necessarily be contacted prior to a decision regarding your complaint; therefore, if you have any additional information or documentation to support your allegations, you should submit it at this time.

The authority of this office and the jurisdiction of the Commission on Lawyer Conduct are limited to issues of whether a lawyer is subject to discipline pursuant to the Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement, Rule 413, SCACR. Where misconduct is found, the disposition might include a confidential letter of caution or admonition, a public reprimand, suspension, or disbarment. If our investigation does not reveal evidence of lawyer misconduct, your complaint will be dismissed.

We take this opportunity to advise you of the limited role of this office and the Commission so that you will be aware that we cannot provide you with legal assistance or advice. You should promptly seek assistance or advice that you might need from legal counsel or other sources.

You will be notified of the final disposition of your complaint. It is often many months after receipt of a complaint before a final decision is made.

Sincerely,

Holly M. Hadden

HMH/dmk

FORM 4
NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM A SENTENCE IMPOSED BY THE COURT
OF GENERAL SESSIONS

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals
In the Supreme Court

APPEAL FROM BERKELEY COUNTY
Court of General Sessions

Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson, Circuit
Court Judge

Case No. 2025-001673

The State,

Respondent,

v.

April Jarqvavia Lilliston,

Appellant.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

April Jarqvavia Lilliston appeals for her conviction and sentence in this case. The sentence was imposed by the Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson on August 1, 2025. This appeal is taken from the order of the Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson, dated August 1, 2025

August 26, 2025,

s/ April Jarqvavia
Lilliston. 
Post Office Box 5
Sandy Springs, SC
29677 (786)234-
2201 Appellant

Other Counsel of Record:
Rachel H. Janowski
Solicitor
300- B California
Ave
Moncks Corner SC (843) 719-4529
Attorney for Resnondent

FORM 7
PROOF OF SERVICE OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals
In The Supreme Court

APPEAL FROM BERKELEY COUNTY
Court of General Sessions

Deadra L Jefferson, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2025-001673

State of South Carolina,

Respondent,

v.

April Jarqvavia Lilliston,

Appellant.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on State of South Carolina by depositing a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on August 27, 2025, addressed to following Berkeley County Clerk of Court 300- B California Avenue Moncks Corner SC 29461, Rachel Janowski, Solicitor Ninth Circuit Solicitors Office 300-B California Ave Moncks Corner, SC 29461, Julie Shivers, Public Defender 105 Gullede Street Moncks Corner SC 29461. A true and correct copy was mailed to each recipient listed above.

August 27, 2025,

s/ April J Lilliston



April J Lilliston

Post Office Box 5

Sandy Springs, South Carolina 29677

(786)234-2201

Appellant

April Lilliston
PO Box 5
Sandy Springs SC 29677

CERTIFIED MAIL®



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Retail



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U.S. POSTAGE P.
FCM LETTER
PENDLETON, SC
AUG 28, 2025

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SEP 02 2025

SC Court of Appeals

South Carolina Court of Appeals

Clerk's office

PO Box 11629

Columbia, SC 29211

29211-162929

