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S.C. SUPREME COURT



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 4, 2025

The Honorable Patricia A. Howard
Supreme Court of South Carolina
Post Office Box 11330
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(via e-filing only - supctfilings@sccourts.org)

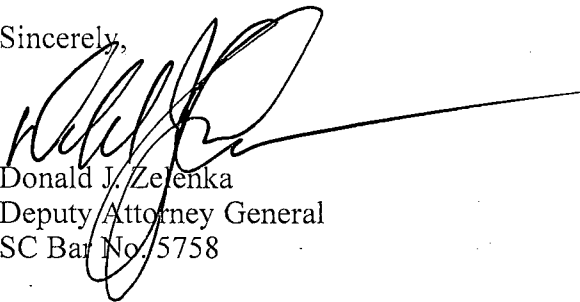
Re: David F. Gates, #387073 v. State of South Carolina
Appellate Case No. 2025-000869

Dear Ms. Howard:

Respondent's Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the above-referenced post-conviction relief appeal is due to be served and filed today. Respondent respectfully requests a first, thirty-day extension to serve and file this return based on the heavy caseload of undersigned counsel. Counsel for Petitioner, C. Rauch Wise, has consented to this extension request.

Please let me know if I can provide the Court with any additional information regarding this first extension request.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Zelenka
Deputy Attorney General
SC Bar No. 5758

DJZ/wjc

cc: C. Rauch Wise, Counsel for Petitioner (via email only)