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SC Court of Appeals



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

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Wanda H. Carter, Interim Chief Appellate Defender

September 15, 2025

The Honorable Jenny Kitchings
Clerk of Court

Re: The State v. Brandon L. Corder
Appellate Case No. 2023-001543

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

By order dated June 18, 2025, this Court remanded this case for reconstruction of the record. After a hearing on August 22, 2025, the trial court has entered an order finding the record can be adequately reconstructed. I have included that order with this letter. Along with the requisite findings to otherwise reconstruct the record, the trial court has directed Legal Eagle to correct various specific errors in the transcripts, to reduce the number of "inaudible" and "simultaneous speakers" notations as much as possible, and to reformat the transcript to comply with the Court Reporter Manual. I will forward a copy of the trial court's order to Court Administration to send to Legal Eagle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jordan Wayburn', is written over a horizontal line.

Jordan Wayburn
Appellate Defender

cc: Melody Brown (*via email*)
The Honorable Debra R. McCaslin (*via email*).

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF LEXINGTON

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ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

LISA M. O'NEAL
CLERK OF COURT
LEXINGTON SC

)

INDICTMENT: 2020-GS-32-01854,
2020-GS-32-1857

V.

)

BRANDON LEE CORDER,

)

ORDER RECONSTRUCTING THE
RECORD

Defendant.

)

)

This matter was first tried to mistrial before the undersigned and a jury from February 27 to March 2, 2023. The Court of Appeals remanded this case for reconstruction of the record by order dated June 18, 2025 (Appellate Case No. 2023-001543). A hearing to reconstruct the record was held on August 22, 2023. Present were Brandon Corder, appellate counsel for the defendant, the Attorney General's Office, and the solicitor and trial counsel. By chance, the court reporter assigned to the hearing was one of the reporters assigned to the trial.

The parties and the Court had available for review the current transcripts from Legal Eagle, Stacy Johnson, and Lisa Amick. The parties and the Court also had available the audio recordings from the trial. All parties agree, and this Court so finds, that the record can be adequately reconstructed for appellate purposes as no witness testimony or argument of counsel is missing.

In Corder's motion in the Court of Appeals to remand he asserted four purposes requiring the reconstruction. This Court will address each in turn:

1. Corder asserted three hours of the proceedings from March 1, 2023, *appear* to be missing from the transcript. It is the memory of the Court, the solicitor, and trial counsel that nothing of material substance occurred on the record during those three hours. The original court reporter assigned to that day of trial was Bethanie Creppon. She had multiple personal emergencies that day which required Stacy Johnson to serve

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LISA L. AMICK
CLERK OF COURT
LEXINGTON, VA

- as a substitute court reporter for most of that day. After reviewing those portions of the transcript, the Court finds there is nothing material missing from the transcripts.
2. Corder asserted two official transcripts were created for the proceedings on March 2, 2023. There in fact were two transcripts for that day: one by Lisa Amick, a certified court reporter present on that day, and one by Legal Eagle. This Court finds the transcript by Lisa Amick is the official transcript and should be used as necessary for inclusion in the Record on Appeal. The transcript Legal Eagle produced for March 2 is to be disregarded.
 3. Corder asserted State's Exhibit 43 at the trial was not kept by the Lexington County Clerk's Office and therefore could not be included in the Record on Appeal. The solicitor has produced a copy of that exhibit retained by her office, and appellate counsel for Corder is satisfied this represents the exhibit admitted at the trial. At the reconstruction hearing, the state offered a memo outlining the situation and which was marked as Court's Exhibit 1. It included as "Exhibit 7" a disc with that audio recording. This Court finds that recording is an adequate copy of State's Exhibit 43 from trial.
 4. Corder asserted the transcripts created by Legal Eagle are replete with "inaudible" and "simultaneous speaker" notations. This Court hereby orders Court Administration and Legal Eagle to create a new transcript of the proceedings for which Legal Eagle was responsible on February 27, February 28, and March 1 of 2023. For clarity: the transcript from March 1 which Legal Eagle must recreate concerns only just over eighteen minutes of a single audio recording produced by Bethanie Creppon. It is not necessary for Legal Eagle to recreate the transcript for the remainder of March 1. It is also not necessary for Legal Eagle to recreate the transcript for March 2 in light of the

transcript produced by Lisa Amick. In addition, when Legal Eagle recreates this transcript, its attention is directed to the following specific errors to be corrected:

- a. On March 1, the transcript refers to a "Morton" case. This is incorrect. The case being discussed is *State v. Wharton*, 381 S.C. 209, 672 S.E.2d 786 (2009).

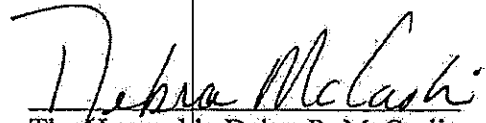
The references should be to "Wharton" instead.

- b. Also on March 1, there are references to *State v. Brewton*, 437 S.C. 44, 876 S.E.2d 141 (Ct. App. 2022). Legal Eagle should carefully review this portion of the transcript for accuracy in referencing *Brewton*. For example, on page 387, line 18, the Court stated, "I'm reading the Brewton case." This was incorrectly transcribed as, "I'm reading the brief to the case."

- c. Also on March 1, beginning on page 391, there are some references to "DB 3rd" and the like which should instead be "DV" as in "domestic violence."

5. Corder also asserted the headings and index Legal Eagle created are inadequate. Legal Eagle is instructed it must follow the instructions and rules for transcripts provided in the Court Reporter's Manual. If the transcript Legal Eagle produces is not satisfactory to the parties, they are instructed to address that with the Court of Appeals, as that Court wrote in its order remanding the case.

With the foregoing findings, and expecting Legal Eagle to comply with this order, this Court finds the record can be adequately reconstructed.


The Honorable Debra R. McCaslin
General Sessions Court,
Eleventh Judicial Circuit

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September 10, 2025.