

RECEIVED

Oct 15 2025

S.C. SUPREME COURT



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

Division of Appellate Defense
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-3332
Post Office Box 11589
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1589
Telephone: (803) 734-1330
Facsimile: (803) 734-1345

Wanda H. Carter, Interim Chief Appellate Defender

October 15, 2025

Honorable Patricia A. Howard
Clerk, South Carolina Supreme Court
Post Office Box 11330
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Request for Order of Substitute Counsel
Jamel Dajour Williams v. The State
Appellate Case No. 2025-001289

Dear Ms. Howard:

On January 9, 2020, Jamel Dajour Williams was convicted of murder, attempted murder, and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime per jury trial held at the Allendale County General Sessions Court before Judge Carmen T. Mullen, who sentenced him to life imprisonment. Mr. Williams appealed. On January 12 2022, the appeal was dismissed by the South Carolina Court of Appeals. See State v. Williams, Unpublished Opinion No. 2022-UP-017 (S.C. Ct. App.).

Mr. Williams filed a PCR action on April 13, 2022, and after an evidentiary hearing was held in the case, an Order of Dismissal was filed on May 22, 2025, by Judge Frank R. Addy, Jr. therein denying his allegations of ineffective assistance of trial and appellate counsels in the case.

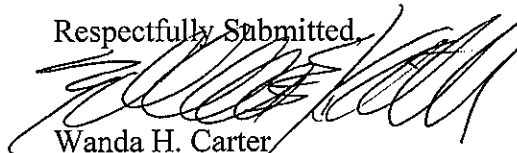
Mr. Williams' PCR appeal has been assigned to Senior Appellate Defender Kathrine Haggard Hudgins; however, a conflict exists because Mr. Williams was represented on direct appeal by Assistant Appellate Defender Sarah E. Shipe, who was the subject of an ineffective assistance of appellate counsel allegation in this PCR case. Also, note that Attorney Shipe testified at the PCR hearing in response to the allegation of ineffective assistance of appellate counsel raised against her.

As a result, the PCR appeal in this case, which is presently in our office, presents a conflict with our office inasmuch as any staff attorney assigned to the case would be placed in the position of having to evaluate the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of another office attorney therein giving rise to dual representation and divided loyalties. Duncan v. State, 281 S.C. 435, 315 S.E.2d 809 (1984), citing to Cuyler v. Sullivan, 446 U.S. 335 (1980) and Zuck v. State of

Alabama, 588 F.2d 436 (5th Cir. 1979). Therefore, in order to avoid actual impropriety or the appearance of impropriety (See SCACR, Rule 407), this is a request for an Order of Substitute Counsel to be issued in the above titled appeal, and that the appeal be held in abeyance as well.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,



Wanda H. Carter
Interim Chief Appellate Defender

WHC/cs

cc: Danielle Dixon, Esq.