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Nov 20 2025

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Barnwell County

Walton J. McLeod, IV, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

ERIC N. VANCLEAVE,

PETITIONER.

Appellate Case No. 2025-002296

PETITION TO BE RELIEVED AS COUNSEL

On November 19, 2025, Robert T. Williams, Esquire, received a notice from the Clerk of the South Carolina Court of Appeals, notifying him of an appeal filed by Petitioner pro se, and indicating that Mr. Williams was still counsel for Petitioner. Mr. Williams respectfully moves for an order of the Court relieving him as counsel in this matter.

By brief way of background, Mr. Williams and his law partner, Benjamin A. Stitely, of Williams, Stitely & Brink, PC, were hired by Petitioner to represent him on several different indictments on or around September 30, 2010. After Petitioner was convicted of all indictments,

Petitioner appealed his conviction to the South Carolina Court of Appeals, with Mr. Williams and Mr. Stitely still acting as counsel.

After his appeal was denied, Petitioner then filed for post-conviction relief (“PCR”), asserting that Mr. Williams and Mr. Stitely were ineffective for failing to present alibi evidence. The PCR court dismissed the application. (Dkt. No. 15-3 at 117, 129-31). Soon thereafter, Petitioner appealed the dismissal of his PCR application to the South Carolina Supreme Court, who transferred his appeal to the Court of Appeals. On June 29, 2019, the Court of Appeals denied Petitioner’s appeal. (Dkt. No. 15-10).

On January 9, 2020, Petitioner filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus based on the denial of his PCR application and more. Mr. Williams did not represent Petitioner for this proceeding. On November 23, 2020, the petition was denied.

Since July 2019, Mr. Williams nor any member of his firm have represented Petitioner on anything.

WHEREFORE, Mr. Williams requests that the Court accept this Petition to be Relieved as Counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAMS, STITELY & BRINK PC

By:


Robert T. Williams (S.C. Bar No. 6149)
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Lexington, South Carolina
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PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Rebecca Tewell, certify I served the Petition to be Relieved as Counsel on the following individuals via the email addresses listed below:

Leigh Bilodeau Staggs, Esquire
lstaggs@aikencountysc.gov

Mark Reynolds Farthing, Esquire
mfarthing@scag.gov

Wanda H. Carter, Esquire
wcarter@sccid.sc.gov

Furthermore, I certify that I served the Petition to be Relieved as Counsel on the following by depositing a copy in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to:

Alan Wilson, Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

Eric N. VanCleave, 354843
BRCI, MAA-0234B
4460 Broad River Rd
Columbia, SC 29210

I further certify that all parties required by Rule to be served have been served.

This 20th day of November, 2025.



REBECCA TEWELL
Williams, Stitely & Brink, PC
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