

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

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Dec 29 2025

APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

SC Court of Appeals

Jennifer B. McCoy, Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2025-002408

Debra E. Nelson, Appellant,

v.

Hunt Law, LLC and Bonnie Travaglio Hunt, Esq.,
Respondents.

**MOTION TO STRIKE IMPROPER AND IRRELEVANT ALLEGATIONS AND TO
LIMIT ARGUMENT TO THE MERITS**

NOW COMES the Appellant, **Debra E. Nelson**, pro se, and respectfully moves this Court to **strike or disregard** portions of Respondents' *Return to Appellant's Motion to File Notice of Appeal Out of Time* that reference unrelated litigation and matters outside the appellate record. In support of this Motion, Appellant states as follows:

I. Respondents Inject Collateral Matters Outside the Record

In the opening paragraphs of their Return, Respondents reference multiple lawsuits and proceedings that are **not part of the record on appeal**, were **voluntarily dismissed**, and bear **no relevance** to the order under review. These matters are raised not to address the issues presented, but to improperly prejudice the Court and divert attention from the merits of this appeal.

Appellate review is confined to the **record below** and the **issues preserved for review**.

Collateral litigation history is not probative of whether the trial court acted impartially or in accordance with due process in the case at bar.

II. Respondents Refuse to Address the Merits of the Appealed Order

Respondents' Return notably **fails to address** the central issues presented for appellate review, including:

1. Whether **Judge Jennifer B. McCoy demonstrated bias** by ignoring pending motions alleging misconduct and harassment;
2. Whether a **subpoena delivered to the court on August 4, 2025** failed to appear on the docket before the case was dismissed **with prejudice on August 5, 2025**;
3. Whether the dismissal occurred **without consideration of material evidence** submitted to the court;
4. Whether Respondents were improperly permitted to **schedule and pursue hearings after the case was officially closed on September 10, 2025**, thereby continuing harassing conduct without jurisdiction.

Rather than addressing these issues, Respondents rely on irrelevant characterizations of Appellant's unrelated litigation history.

III. The Allegations Are Prejudicial and Improper on Appeal

Respondents' references to unrelated cases are **irrelevant, prejudicial, and improper** in appellate briefing. They do not assist the Court in determining whether the appealed proceedings were conducted fairly or whether Appellant was denied meaningful review of her claims.

Courts routinely strike or disregard such material when it is used to **avoid addressing the merits** and to substitute character attacks for legal argument.

IV. Appellant Seeks Merits-Based Review, Not Collateral Litigation

Appellant expressly seeks to **narrow the scope of this appeal** to the merits of the appealed order and the procedural irregularities that occurred below. Appellant does not wish to

engage in non-relevant arguments and respectfully requests that the Court direct the parties to confine briefing to matters properly before it.

V. Respondents' Irrelevant Allegations Mirror Prior Improper Communications and Ignored Objections

Respondents' reliance on collateral litigation history is not an isolated litigation tactic. During the proceedings below, Respondent Andrew W. Countryman engaged in **direct ex parte communications** with the presiding judge concerning substantive matters in this case, while a motion for recusal and a notice of appeal were pending.

On **November 6, 2025**, Appellant filed a *Notice of Improper Communication and Objection to Ex Parte Contact*, documenting an email sent by Respondent directly to Judge Jennifer B. McCoy outside the standard filing channels and without involvement of the Clerk of Court. That filing requested that the communication be made part of the record and that no rulings issue while recusal and appeal remained pending.

The trial court did not address or remedy this conduct. Instead, Respondents were permitted to continue injecting improper and prejudicial material into the proceedings, including the scheduling of hearings after the case was dismissed. Respondents' current attempt to divert this Court's attention to unrelated matters is consistent with that unchecked pattern and underscores the need to confine this appeal strictly to the merits and the record.

In addition to ignoring objections to improper communications, the trial court failed to rule on Appellant's **Motion for Taxation of Costs arising from Defendants' deliberate evasion of service**, despite documentary proof and statutory authority supporting reimbursement. At the same time, Respondents were permitted to file **repeated and duplicative "Gatekeeper" motions**, none of which addressed the merits of the case. The court's failure to resolve these motions or restrain duplicative filings emboldened Respondents to continue harassing conduct,

including litigation activity after the case had been dismissed and jurisdiction had ended. See Plaintiff's Motion for Taxation of Additional Service Costs and Reply in Opposition to Gatekeeper Order.

VI. WHEREFORE, Appellant respectfully requests that this Court:

1. **Strike or disregard** Respondents' references to unrelated litigation and matters outside the record on appeal;
2. Limit consideration to the **merits of the appealed order**, including judicial bias, ignored filings, missing docketed evidence, and post-dismissal activity; and
3. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted December 29, 2025,



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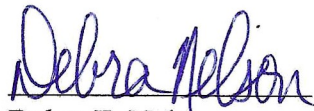
v.

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Respondents.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 29th day of December, 2025, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Motion to Strike Improper and Irrelevant Allegations** by depositing the same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed to:

Andrew W. Countryman, Esq.
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