

**RECEIVED**

**Jan 05 2026**

**S.C. SUPREME COURT**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In the Supreme Court

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CERTIORARI TO LEXINGTON COUNTY  
Court of Common Pleas  
The Honorable Debra R. McCaslin, Trial Judge  
The Honorable J. Cordell Maddox, Jr., Post-Conviction Relief Judge

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Appellate Case No. 2025-000869

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David F. Gates, #387073,

Petitioner,

v.

State of South Carolina,

Respondent.

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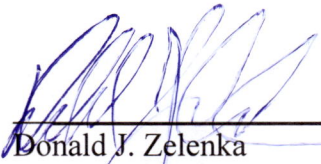
**PROOF OF SERVICE**

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The undersigned hereby certifies a true copy of the Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari has been served upon opposing counsel by sending to opposing counsel's primary e-mail address as listed in the Attorney Information System (AIS):

**C. Rauch Wise, Esquire**  
**rauchwise@gmail.com**

This 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald J. Zelenka  
Attorney for Respondent

Office of the Attorney General  
Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, SC 29211  
(803) 734-3737

**From:** [Don Zelenka](#)  
**To:** [Rauch Wise](#)  
**Cc:** [William Corbett](#); [Angela Brown](#); [Zelenka, Don](#)  
**Subject:** David F. Gates v. State Appellate Case No. 2025000869 - Respondent's Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[GATES David- Signed Letter Sending RPWC for Filing.pdf](#)  
[GATES David- Email Proof of Service for RPWC.pdf](#)  
[GATES David- Cert Return - PDF For Filing .pdf](#)

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Dear Mr. Wise -

Attached please find a copy of the Respondent's Return to the Petitioner for Writ of Certiorari, Certificate of Service and Cover Letter in the matter of Gates v South Carolina.

Thank you for your prior courtesies in this matter.

Sincerely,

**DON ZELENKA**

**Deputy Attorney General**

Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

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