

RECEIVED

Jan 14 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Supreme Court

On Petition for Writ of Certiorari to Lexington County
Court of Common Pleas
The Honorable Jocelyn J. Newman

Appellate Case No. 2025-000761

Bryan Jeffrey Ellis,

Petitioner,

v.

State Of South Carolina,

Respondent.

**MOTION FOR A FOURTH EXTENSION OF TIME TO SERVE AND FILE THE
RETURN TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI**

Counsel for Respondent respectfully moves for a **fourth** and **final** extension of thirty (30) days in which to serve and file the Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in this case. This is a fourth request for an extension which is current due this date. In support of this request, counsel shows:

1. The Return to Petition for a Writ of Certiorari is due to be served and filed with the Court today, January 14, 2026.
2. Counsel for Respondent respectfully submits that extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant the granting of an additional time extension. Given the number of extensions

previously granted and the order in which Counsel attempts to manage his heavy caseload, Counsel hopes that no further extension requests will be required.

3. Counsel has been working on a series of extensive PCR proposed orders that have been extended in this time frame since the past extension. In particular, counsel prepared a proposed order in Gregory Brooks v. State, on December 10, 2025 (118 pages), filed a pleading in this Court on December 29, 2025 opposition a stay and other matters in In the Matter of Adele Jeffords Pope, Appellate Case No. 2020-000764; filed a Return to Certiorari in David Gates v. State on January 5, 2026. Counsel was also working on a draft PCR order for Judge Maddox in William Marino v. State, (Maddox) (currently 40 pages).
4. However, the bulk of this time and into the next few weeks has been spent on preparing a proposed PCR order in William Heath v. State (draft currently over 230 pages addressing 188 page amended application) (305 page PCR hearing transcript) (Gravely).
5. Below-signed counsel, in the interim in his role as deputy attorney general has also been involved in a series of unexpected staffing issues and other matters that have taken priority.
6. This extension request is made in good faith and not intended for delay, but rather due to Counsel's heavy workload and to ensure the return is properly researched and prepared.
7. Opposing counsel Gary H. Johnson is advised of this request which is submitted consistent with the consent agreement between this office and Appellate Defense.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned Counsel would respectfully request a thirty-day extension in which to serve and file the Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in this case based upon the above exigent circumstances.

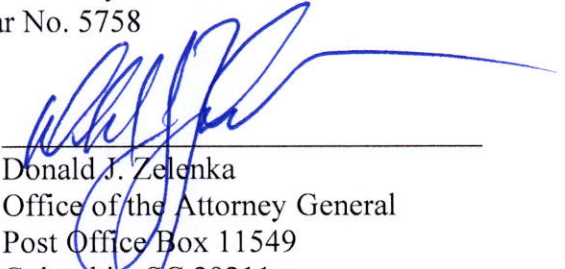
Respectfully submitted,

ALAN WILSON
Attorney General

W. JEFFREY YOUNG
Chief Deputy Attorney General

DONALD J. ZELENKA
Deputy Attorney General
S.C. Bar No. 5758

BY:



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

ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

I have reviewed and approved this extension request.

By: s/W. Jeffrey Young
W. Jeffrey Young
Chief Deputy Attorney General
S.C. Bar No. 5747

January 14, 2026