

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE SUPREME COURT

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Jan 29 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

Appeal from the Spartanburg County
Court of Common Pleas

Appellate Case No. 2025-001377

RICKY LEE BLACKWELL PETITIONER,

v.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINARESPONDENT.

**PETITIONER’S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE APPENDIX AND
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI**

Petitioner, Ricky Lee Blackwell, through undersigned counsel, for the reasons stated below, respectfully requests that this Court grant an extension of time for thirty (30) days to file the Petition for Writ of Certiorari and the Appendix presently due for filing on February 2, 2026.

The reasons for this motion are as follows:

1. This Court granted an initial extension of time on December 29, 2025, extending the filing deadline to February 2, 2026.
2. Since the Court granted the initial extension of time on December 29, 2025, undersigned counsel’s other case load has interfered with their ability to complete the briefing in this matter. Specifically, at the end of 2026, Justice 360 had staffing turnover which required both attorneys to be substituted as counsel in several ongoing capital post-conviction relief cases. Taking over these cases has substantially limited counsel’s time to work on these pleadings over the last month. Additionally, Attorney Major is counsel in several other

capital post-conviction relief actions, including *Jones v. State*, 2024-CP-32-01312, and has been getting new co-counsel oriented to Mr. Jones's case as well as actively conducting investigation into Mr. Jones's available claims for relief. Moreover, Attorney Cruz is also counsel in another capital post-conviction relief case, *Terry v. State*, Appellate Case No. 2025-001760, and completed and filed the appendix and petition for writ of certiorari on January 5, 2026.

3. Petitioner's case involves fourteen (14) claims for post-conviction relief, including claims about Petitioner being a person with intellectual disability pursuant to *Atkins v. Virginia*, 536 U.S. 403 (2002), which require thorough research and briefing. Undersigned counsel reasonably believes that an extension is needed to thoroughly and accurately brief the issues in this case.
4. Undersigned counsel contacted counsel for the State who consents to this extension request.

THEREFORE, for the reasons stated above, Petitioner respectfully submits that an extension of time is warranted for good cause and requests thirty days, thus making the Appendix and Petition for Writ of Certiorari due on or before March 4, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Rosalind S.D. Major
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January 29, 2026.