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Jan 30 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Supreme Court

On Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Common Pleas
Appeal from Kershaw County

Honorable Daniel Coble, Post-Conviction Relief Judge

Appellate Case No. 2025-000553

Nakia K. Johnson,

Petitioner,

v.

State of South Carolina,

Respondent.

**MOTION FOR A FOURTH EXTENSION 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. In support of this request, counsel shows:¹:

1. The Return to Petition for a Writ of Certiorari was due to be served and filed with the Court on January 30, 2026.

¹ In compliance with: In Re: Extensions in Criminal and Post-Conviction Relief Cases, (S.C. Sup. Ct. order dated March 18, 2009) (Davis Adv. Sh. No. 13 at 1).

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 her heavy caseload, Counsel hopes that no further extension requests will be required.
3. Counsel had a term of court on November 10–14, 2025, in the Fifth Judicial Circuit, in which Counsel is preparing orders.
4. Counsel had a term of court on November 17–21, 2025, in the Seventh Judicial Circuit, in which Counsel is preparing orders.
5. Counsel had a term of court on December 1–5, 2025, in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, in which Counsel is preparing orders.
6. Counsel had a term of court on December 8–12, 2025, in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, in which Counsel is preparing orders.
7. Counsel has a term of court on February 9th and 10th in the First Judicial Circuit, in which Counsel is preparing the cases.
8. Counsel has a term of court on February 11th, 12th, and 13th in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, in which Counsel is preparing the cases.
9. Counsel has a term of court on February 16–20, 2026, in the Fifth Judicial Circuit, in which Counsel is preparing the cases.
10. In the last month, Counsel has had multiple PCR filings due with the lower courts in the Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Judicial Circuits.
11. 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.

12. Opposing counsel has graciously consented to this request via interagency agreement.

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.

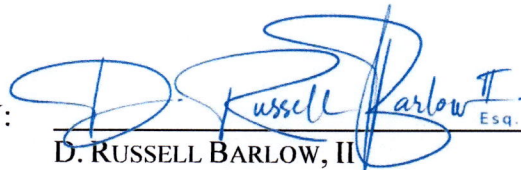
Respectfully submitted,

ALAN WILSON
Attorney General

DONALD J. ZELENKA
Deputy Attorney General

D. RUSSELL BARLOW, II
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

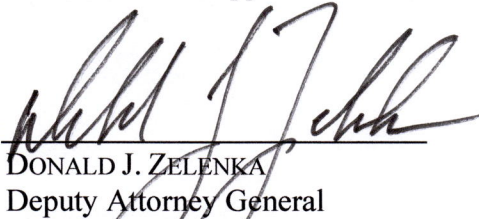
BY:



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ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

I have reviewed and approved this extension request.

By:



DONALD J. ZELENKA
Deputy Attorney General

January 30, 2026