



The South Carolina Court of Appeals

JENNY ABBOTT KITCHINGS
CLERK

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POST OFFICE BOX 11629
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
1220 SENATE STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1890
FAX: (803) 734-1839
www.sccourts.org

February 04, 2026

Mr. Max Thomas Hyde, Jr., Esquire
360 East Main Street, Suite One
Spartanburg SC 29302

Mrs. Samantha Nicholson Larkins, Esquire
331 Connecticut Avenue
Spartanburg SC 29302-2930

Mr. Troy Edward Nance, Esquire
119 Forest St
Jefferson GA 30549

Mr. Monier Mufid Abusoft, Esquire
Law Office Of Mo Abusoft
133 E. Frederick St
Gaffney SC 29340

Mrs. Sarah P. Spruill, Esquire
PO Box 2048
Greenville SC 29602

Re: First Class Barbers, LLC v. Douglas Family Partnership, LLP
Appellate Case No. 2025-002312

Dear Counsel:

Enclosed is the Court's decision regarding the motions filed on November 26,

2025. This appeal is held in abeyance pending ruling on the motion to dismiss filed on December 22, 2025.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jasmine D. Smith, Deputy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

CLERK

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

First Class Barbers, LLC, Appellant,

v.

Douglas Family Partnership, LLP, FMO Real Estate,
LLP/Fairway Outdoor Advertising, and Lamar
Advertising Company, Defendants,

of which Douglas Family Partnership, LLP and Lamar
Advertising Company are the Respondents.

Appellate Case No. 2025-002312

ORDER

On November 18, 2025, the court sent a deficiency letter notifying Appellant, a corporate entity, that Appellant was not represented by an attorney; that a nonlawyer cannot represent a corporate entity in this court; and that the appeal would be dismissed unless an attorney made an appearance. On November 26, 2025, Ortagus Bennett—as managing member of Appellant—filed three motions on behalf of Appellant to (1) appoint or reinstate counsel, (2) "reinstate appeal," and (3) "address the improper withdrawal of counsel and request for relief." On December 16, 2025, counsel filed a notice of appearance as counsel for Appellant and filed proofs of service for the three motions previously filed by Bennett on behalf of Appellant.

First, we find Appellant's motion to appoint or reinstate counsel is moot in light of counsel for Appellant filing a notice of appearance on December 16, 2025. Second, we decline to consider Appellant's "motion to reinstate appeal" as this court never dismissed this appeal. Third, as to Appellant's motion to "address the improper withdrawal of counsel and request for relief," to the extent Appellant is

seeking a ruling on the merits of the appeal, we deny the requested relief as premature.¹



FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

FILED
Feb 04 2026

cc:

Max Thomas Hyde, Jr., Esquire
Samantha Nicholson Larkins, Esquire
Troy Edward Nance, Esquire
Monier Mufid Abusoft, Esquire
Sarah P. Spruill, Esquire

¹ Respondent Lamar Advertising Company's pending December 22, 2025 motion to dismiss is not addressed in this order.