

RECEIVED

Feb 06 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT



ALAN WILSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 6, 2026

The Honorable Patricia A. Howard  
Clerk of the South Carolina Supreme Court  
Post Office Box 11330  
Columbia, SC 29211  
(via e-mail only - [suptfilings@sccourts.org](mailto:suptfilings@sccourts.org))

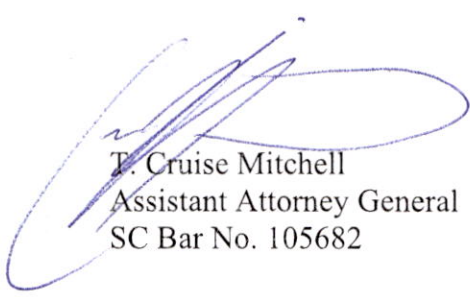
**Re: Stephen T. Fincher v. State of South Carolina**  
**Appellate Case No.: 2025-001249**

Dear Ms. Howard,

Respondent's Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the above-referenced post-conviction relief appeal is due to be served and filed today. Respondent respectfully requests a first, thirty-day extension to serve and file this Return based on the heavy caseload of undersigned counsel.

If I can provide the Court with any additional information regarding this extension request, please let me know.

Sincerely,



T. Cruise Mitchell  
Assistant Attorney General  
SC Bar No. 105682

TCM/zew

cc: David A. Alexander, Counsel for Petitioner (via e-mail only)