

State of South Carolina)
County Of Sumter)
Damien Akanno,)
Plaintiff)
vs.)
State of South Carolina,)
Defendant.)
_____)

In the Circuit Court

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Feb 05 2026

SC Court of Appeals

2025-CP-43-0178

Sumter County Courthouse
June 24, 2025

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

B E F O R E

The Honorable Christopher Taylor

A P P E A R A N C E S:

Mr. Damien Akanno, Pro Se

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1 THE COURT: The next case is Damien Akanno vs.
2 State of South Carolina. Is he here?

3 MR. AKANNO: Akanno. Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: All right, please come down and have a
5 seat.

6 MR. AKANNO: Right here?

7 THE COURT: Yes, sir. That will be fine. Okay.
8 I'd be happy to hear from you. About your appeal.

9 MR. AKANNO: The appeal?

10 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

11 MR. AKANNO: Basically on this appeal the state
12 failed to ...

13 BAILIFF: You need to stand up.

14 MR. AKANNO: Oh, I apologize.

15 THE COURT: Thank you.

16 MR. AKANNO: Basically, on the appeal, the state
17 failed to prove that my E-bike wasn't an E-bike. Everything
18 that pointed to the E-bike being --- all the information
19 pointed to the E-bike being an E-bike was also E-bike. Also
20 the due process of my --- that ticket was not accepted.
21 They also denied actual evidence to be seen by the jury
22 inside the courtroom, and the judge is corrupt because it's
23 the same judge that signed a fake probable cause warrant
24 that later had to dismiss it because there wasn't --- they
25 had put false allegations on me because the city

1 department, the municipal department and the city manager
2 is all going against me, because I'm standing up for my
3 rights. So basically, on this E-bike, it is a 700 --- it's
4 a 750 watt E-bike, just like the law states, it has to be
5 750 watts, it has optimal pedals on there. That's one of
6 the statue code, which they reference the statue Code,
7 Chapter One, article 129, which was the E-bike code for
8 South Carolina by the Supreme Court, the electric bicycles
9 with heavy motors or a low speed motor or a motor which
10 doesn't go over 750 watts or one horsepower and top motor
11 speed or less or at 20 miles per hour. Everything that is
12 stated --- then it says, it makes --- it makes --- it also
13 reference in that same code on -29 that meet the
14 requirements of the federal consumer product code provided
15 in 16 CFR Part 1512 which I pulled up 1615 R, which is a
16 federal code, a CF federal code for them as well and it
17 states in there it has requirements for pedals because
18 their statement was, oh, it meets the requirements, but it
19 doesn't have optimal pedals. Well, when you go to the 1512
20 point two seven, which is the requirements for the pedals
21 in that same code that they reference in the statute code
22 for South Carolina, it says that the pedal can also have
23 defined preferred positions, meaning defined, and I looked
24 it up, I even reached out to the Supreme Court to make sure
25 I wasn't --- I didn't mistake it, and the defined preferred

1 position means a position that is stationary in the one
2 position. I also tried to give them where I bought the bike
3 and give them --- And if you go down --- I don't know if
4 you have been to Hilton Head or Myrtle Beach but they have
5 a place called Hidden Head E-bike rentals. And at Hidden
6 Head E-bike rentals, they have E-bikes with stationary
7 pedals, meaning the pedals does not move. They're
8 stationary. It's all E-bike. They're all under the 750
9 watts. I tried to present that, I called down to the owners
10 of the Hidden Head E-Bike, he said anytime you guys want to
11 call him, he said he couldn't come down. I tried to pay him
12 come down and testify one way. He said he couldn't but
13 anytime you guys want to call him, he will let you guys
14 know because that same code that I referenced, he said,
15 yeah, you're right, you don't have to have pedals that
16 actually pedal they can be pedals that stationary. I also
17 had also provided pictures for E-bikes that they sell at
18 Wal-Mart, you know, for kids and adults that have
19 stationary pedals, it's all legal to ride out here on the
20 streets.

21 The law stated, specifically in the law, once you
22 go to that federal code, it states the ones that's for
23 pedal and it states the ones that's for in defined
24 positions and just stationary. That's what the federal law
25 state. So they didn't let me provide this information. So

1 that's why I was appealing it to you guys or to the Supreme
2 Court, so they can rectify the rules on the E-bike, because
3 everything else met the code. They just said, Oh, it don't
4 have --- it don't have the optimal pedals that we like,
5 that they think supposed to be. But it does have optimal
6 pedals. If you go to try to purchase a replacement pedal,
7 that's when it comes up. It comes up --- They have colored
8 wider foot pedals for the E-bikes. That's what it comes up
9 when you google it and look it up. But I have all that and
10 I have provided it to the clerk, which you should see it,
11 or I can approach the bench and give you the copies in
12 color. I have got them all in color as well.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Well, what I want to find out.
14 So this was --- you had a jury trial?

15 MR. AKANNO: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: And you're saying that the magistrate
17 didn't let you present evidence?

18 MR. AKANNO: No, sir. Mister, I forgot ---
19 Griffin, I believe, was the judge over there. Yeah, he did
20 not allow me to present none of the evidence, not even the
21 one that had my E-bike. And I don't know, I forgot what he
22 said the reason why, he said it didn't matter, but he did
23 not let me provide it. He didn't even let me provide ---
24 This is my motor. So --- because they didn't want to argue
25 the motor, they like, oh, it's 750 watts, so I thought they

1 was arguing the motor. So I had got the people that I
2 bought it from, I got the whole thing for my motor, 750
3 watt motor. It doesn't even go 20 miles per hour. Actually
4 only go 18 miles per hour when you got it on high. So it
5 doesn't even reach the full 20 miles per hour that the law
6 states it can to be able to reach --- to still meet the
7 requirements for the statute of code. These are the E-bikes
8 they said, they said, I didn't have stationary --- these
9 are the E-bikes that you can rent right down at the Hidden
10 Head right now. A lot of E-bikes you can rent them all
11 day, up and down, Hidden Head, South Carolina, right off
12 the beach, and ride around there, I think it's like \$20 for
13 the whole day or you can rent hourly. These are the ones
14 that doesn't have pedals. They have ones with pedals. They
15 have other ones that like a scooter type, and they have
16 ones for the kids as well, which I have that as well on
17 here. But, yeah, I bought it. It's a Chinese E-bike. I
18 bought it from Alibaba. And even on the Alibaba, where when
19 you buy it says 750, Enduro E-bike, electro bike, electric
20 mountain bicycle E-bike. That's what it's title is. I even
21 had --- it comes with an E-bike -- it comes with the E-bike
22 like, almost like a title almost, and it has your serial
23 number, you know what I'm saying so that you that this
24 goes, it goes to, actually that E-bike as well.

25 And that day I was doing everything law abiding.

1 The crazy part is that the officer originally said nobody
2 contributed. That my E-bike was good. But when I pushed
3 the issue because the lady did not pay attention to the
4 sidewalk, I'm riding on the sidewalk, just cruising, and
5 she didn't pay attention to the sidewalk, and she came out
6 of Shoney's trying to hurry up and get into the traffic and
7 knock me 65 feet. Caused me to break my ankle, my fingers
8 and everything and then they tried through the back door
9 and say, oh, to protect her, they tried to say, oh, nobody
10 contribute to the accident it's okay, nothing. They didn't
11 give me no ticket, anything. But when I pushed the issue,
12 they tried to come back and say, well, your E-bike is not
13 E-bike, and that's why we --- now we're going to fault you
14 as fault for the accident, basically retaliating against me
15 because I'm trying to stand up to the --- to the accident
16 report that nobody contributed when clear as day they lied
17 and said there wasn't no video footage. And when we looked
18 and reviewed the body camera, the lady came right there to,
19 the owner of Shoney's, the manager of Shoney's that day and
20 had the footage. We looked at the footage and sure enough
21 it's exactly what it says, she wasn't paying attention.
22 She's looking to the left, she pulls out in traffic while
23 I'm coming right past in front of her and knocks me out
24 into the street.

25 THE COURT: Okay. So there's still a civil case

1 pending around this?

2 MR. AKANNO: Yeah, I have --- I'm doing a civil
3 lawsuit that I had to open up.

4 THE COURT: I mean, is there a personal injury?
5 Maybe I misunderstood.

6 MR. AKANNO: Yes, sir.

7 THE COURT: There's a personal injury case ...

8 MR. AKANNO: Yes, sir. That I opened up myself;
9 yes, sir. We're actually in the current process of
10 settling with the TA travel insurance, which is the lady
11 insurance after reviewing the footage of the video and
12 stuff. So yes. I just now been able to actually start back
13 walking. My fingers, I still do my therapy. I can close my
14 fingers almost to a full fist, but not all the way like
15 this one, but it's, you know, because both of my fingers
16 was broken and my right ankle on the right side.

17 THE COURT: Okay, all right. Anything else you
18 want to tell me related to the appeal?

19 MR. AKANNO: Right. No, I just --- if you wanted
20 to, I know I submitted it, but if you needed anything I
21 had, I don't know if it was in color or not, so I made sure
22 I printed everything in color so you can see it in case you
23 wanted to see everything in color, I had everything for
24 you.

25 THE COURT: Alright, does the clerk have a way to

1 get in contact with you, like a email.

2 MR. AKANNO: Yes. Do you have my phone number.
3 You can take my email. It's gonna be mister and my last
4 name, akanno@yahoo.com.

5 DEPUTY CLERK: I do have your phone number.

6 MR. AKANNO: Okay. Yeah, you can always call me.

7 DEPUTY CLERK: Say that email again?

8 MR. AKANNO: Mister, M-r, and my last name,
9 akanno.

10 DEPUTY CLERK: Okay. Got you.

11 MR. AKANNO: Yes, ma'am.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Akanno.

13 MR. AKANNO: Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: All right. So let me look at some of
15 the things you have submitted and take into account what
16 you have said, and I will have an order. I just want to
17 make sure you will be able to get it is why I was asking.

18 MR. AKANNO: Right.

19 THE COURT: I'll issue an order before Friday.

20 MR. AKANNO: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 MR. AKANNO: Yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: Okay, thank you.

24 MR. AKANNO: Thank you. Y'all have a blessed day.

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) CERTIFICATE
COUNTY OF SUMTER)

Be it known that I, the undersigned Melissa R. Singletary, Certified Verbatim Reporter, for the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript represents a true, accurate and complete transcript of record of the testimony and evidence introduced in during this testimony of the captioned case, before the Circuit Court for Sumter County, South Carolina, so given June 16, 2025 to the best of my skill and ability;

That I am not related to nor an employee of any of the parties hereto, nor a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor interested in the outcome of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand this 20th day of January, 2026.

Melissa R. Singletary

Melissa R. Singletary, CVR
Certified Verbatim Reporter