

RECEIVED

Feb 19 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE SUPREME COURT

---

Certiorari to Laurens County

Honorable B. Alex Hyman, Circuit Court Judge

---

CHRISTOPHER JERMAINE WELLS,

RESPONDENT,

V.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

PETITIONER

Appellate Case No. 2025-001566

---

MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME  
IN WHICH TO FILE THE RETURN TO  
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

---

Counsel for respondent respectfully requests an extension of thirty (30) days in which to file the return to petition for writ of certiorari in this case. This motion is made pursuant to the Order of the South Carolina Supreme Court dated March 18, 2009. This is a second request for an extension. In support of this request, counsel shows:

1. The return to petition for writ of certiorari is due to be served and filed with the Court today.
2. Counsel for Respondent submits that extraordinary circumstances exist which warrant the granting of a second extension of time. Given the number of extensions previously granted and the order in which counsel attempts to manage her caseload, counsel hopes that no further extension requests will be required.

3. Counsel filed the Initial Brief of Appellant in the case of The State v. David White with the Court of Appeals on February 11, 2026. Counsel with co-counsel W. Chandler Norville filed a Motion to Certify Case for Review by the South Carolina Supreme Court in the case of The State v. Ri'Shon Keltarian Gilliam on January 15, 2026. Counsel filed the Petition for Writ of Certiorari, the Brief of Petitioner Pursuant to *White v. State*, and the Appendix in the case of Ezra Rysunn Williams v. The State with the Supreme Court on December 31, 2025. Counsel filed the Initial Reply Brief of Appellant in the case of The State v. Sammy Rowdy Parker with the Court of Appeals on December 18, 2025. Counsel filed the Brief of Petitioner in the case of Daniel Lee Fludd v. The State with the Court of Appeals on December 16, 2025. Counsel filed the Petition for Writ of Certiorari and the Appendix in the case of Jerald Jermaine Howard v. The State with the Supreme Court on December 12, 2025.

4. Counsel makes this request in good faith and not for purpose of delay.

5. Opposing counsel, the Attorney General's Office, has graciously consented to this extension request by way of the thirty day general consent granted by Deputy Attorney General Donald J. Zelenka for all Appellate Defense extensions through February 28, 2026. That emailed general consent was dated February 3, 2026.

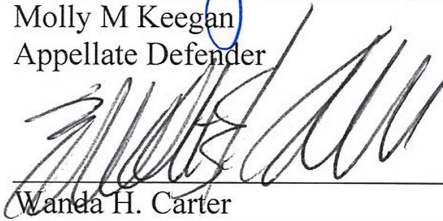
WHEREFORE, the undersigned counsel would respectfully request a thirty day extension, in which to file the return to petition for writ of certiorari in this case based upon the above exigent circumstances. Counsel requests that time limits for filing the return to petition be held in abeyance pending a ruling on this motion.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Molly M Keegan  
Appellate Defender



---

Wanda H. Carter  
Chief Appellate Defender

This 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.