

**RECEIVED**

**Feb 19 2026**

**SC Court of Appeals**

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Appeal from the Cherokee County  
Court of General Sessions

\_\_\_\_\_  
Appellate Case No. 2025-000603  
\_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA .....RESPONDENT,

v.

JOHN BENDARIAN BONNER .....APPELLANT.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE COUNSEL**  
\_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned, Lindsey S. Vann, respectfully moves this Court for substitution of counsel for Appellant, John Bendarian Bonner. Specifically, undersigned counsel request that attorney Leah Smith be substituted as counsel in place of attorney Lindsey S. Vann. In support of this motion, undersigned counsel would show:

1. Attorney Vann has represented Mr. Bonner in this appeal, along with undersigned counsel Rosalind S.D. Major and Brianna L. Cruz.
2. Attorneys Vann, Major, and Cruz filed a Notice of Appeal on March 28, 2025 and filed the Initial Brief of Petitioner on August 26, 2025.
3. Attorney Vann’s employment at Justice 360 ended on January 1, 2026. As a result, she will no longer be able to represent Petitioner in this matter.
4. Attorney Smith has met with Mr. Bonner, familiarized herself with the record and briefing in this case, and is prepared to assist in subsequent briefing and proceedings.

5. Attorney Major and Attorney Cruz will remain as counsel in this case.
6. Respectfully, undersigned counsel requests that this Court relieve Lindsey S. Vann as counsel for further proceedings in this matter, and that this Court substitute Leah Smith as counsel in this matter alongside Attorney Major and Attorney Cruz.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Lindsey S. Vann  
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s/ Leah Smith  
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s/ Rosalind S.D. Major  
Rosalind S.D. Major, S.C. Bar No. 106017  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**  
\_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned certifies that a copy of Appellant’s Motion to Substitute Counsel was served was served by email to the AIS email addresses, pursuant to Section (b) of the Supreme Court of South Carolina’s May 6, 2022 Order, this 19th day of February, 2026, upon the following:

Mark Farthing, Esquire: mfarthing@scag.gov  
Alan Wilson, Esquire: agwilson@scag.gov

s/ Rosalind S.D. Major  
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