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THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

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FEB 23 2026

APPEAL FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT
Ralph K. Anderson, III, Administrative Law Judge

SC Court of Appeals

Dock. Nos. 25-ALJ-04-0371-AP, 25-ALJ-04-0372-AP, 25-ALJ-04-0373-AP,
25-ALJ-04-0374-AP, 25-ALJ-04-0375-AP, 25-ALJ-04-0376-AP,
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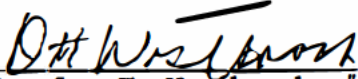
Francis Ackerman, #266928, et al. Appellants,

v.

South Carolina Department of Corrections Respondent.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Appellants appeal the order of The Honorable Ralph K. Anderson, III dated January 23, 2026. Appellants received a copy of the order on the same day.*
February 20, 2026



Douglas H. Westbrook, #6039
3 Gamecock Ave., Ste. 304-B
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 853-9600
Attorney for Appellants

Other Counsel of Record:
Lake E. Summers, Esquire
Malone, Thompson & Summers LLC
339 Heyward St., Ste. 100
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 254-3300
Attorney for Respondent S.C. Department of Corrections

* Jerome Scott, #153381, Docket No. 25-ALJ-04-0501-AP, terminated undersigned counsel in September 2025. As a result, he is not one of the appellants in this appeal. He is listed only because his name and docket number are included in this order of dismissal.

Pending related appeal, app. case #2025-002521.

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
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APPEAL FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT
Ralph K. Anderson, III, Administrative Law Judge

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25-ALJ-04-0511-AP

Francis Ackerman, #266928, et al. Appellants,


v.

South Carolina Department of Corrections Respondent.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on (1) The Honorable Ralph K. Anderson, III and (2) the S.C. Department of Corrections by depositing copies of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on February 20, 2026, addressed to (1) The Honorable Ralph K. Anderson, III, Chief Administrative Law Judge, S.C. Administrative Law Court, Edgar A. Brown Building, 1205 Pendleton St., Suite 224, Columbia, SC 29201 and (2) Lake E. Summers, Esquire, Malone, Thompson & Summers LLC, 339 Heyward St., Suite 100, Columbia, SC 29201, attorney of record for Respondent S.C. Department of Corrections.

February 20, 2026


Douglas H. Westbrook, #6039
3 Gamecock Ave., Ste. 304-B
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 853-9600
Attorney for Appellants

DOUGLAS H. WESTBROOK
Attorney At Law

3 Gamecock Ave., Suite 304-B
Charleston, SC 29407
843.853.9600
douglas.h.westbrook@gmail.com

February 20, 2026

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FEB 23 2026
SC Court of Appeals

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of Court
S.C. Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: Francis Ackerman, et al. v. S.C. Department of Corrections;
Dock. Nos. 25-ALJ-04-0371-AP, etc.

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Please find enclosed for filing with the Court appellants' Notice of Appeal and Proof of Service for the above captioned consolidated case. The \$250 filing fee is enclosed.

By copy of this letter, I have this date served copies of these documents on The Honorable Ralph K. Anderson, III, Chief Judge of the S.C. Administrative Law Court, and Lake E. Summers, Esquire, counsel of record for Respondent S.C. Department of Corrections.

Concerning the Court's order of February 3, 2026, the Court granted the request to hold briefing timelines in abeyance until any related appeals have been filed, and the parties shall provide the Court with a status update every 60 days. With this appeal, all appeals have now been filed: 26 cases in the December 9, 2025 Brannon appeal; and 141 cases in the 3 appeals filed today (139 in Ackerman order, 1 in Kelly order, and 1 in Wright order). There were 30 cases not appealed for various reasons. In light of the Court's February 3 order, please advise if the initial brief is due within 30 days, or additional time will be allowed because of the consolidated order. Finally, since all cases have now been appealed, I assume this satisfies the Court's request for a status update every 60 days.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Douglas H. Westbrook, #6039

DHW/

cc: The Honorable Ralph K. Anderson, III (w/encl.)
Lake E. Summers, Esquire (w/encl.)

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DOUGLAS H. WESTBROOK
Attorney At Law
3 Commerce Ave., Suite 304-B
Charleston, SC 29407

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SC Court of Appeals

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FIRST CLASS