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SC Court of Appeals

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Wanda H. Carter, Chief Appellate Defender

February 26, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk, S.C. Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: State v. Apache Lawrence **Appellate Case No. 2024-001385**

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Apache Lawrence was convicted of first degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and unlawful neglect of a child on August 14, 2024, in Greenville County per jury trial held before Judge Eugene C. Griffith, after which time a timely notice of appeal was filed in the case.

The initial brief of appellant and designation of matter to be included in the record on appeal in the above titled case were due to be filed with the Court on April 23, 2025. On April 10, 2025, a letter was sent requesting leave to hold the appeal in abeyance pending receipt of a transcript of the pre-trial continuance motion hearing held presumably on the topics of counsel's time preparation and counsel and appellant's differing views on defense matters in the case.

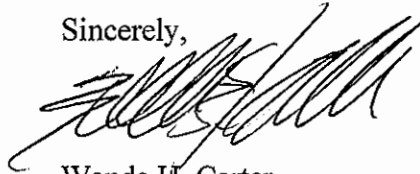
Originally, it was believed that the possible dates on which the pre-trial hearing was held occurred during the week of August 6-9, 2024. See Trial Record at pages 56-59. In addition, trial counsel indicated that said hearing was held on August 12, 2024. Nonetheless, a total of three orders were placed by our office listing all possible hearing dates over a span of nine months per attempts to secure a transcript of the pre-trial hearing. Supplementary to the three transcript orders, we were also in numerous e-mail communications with various parties during those months, which added time delays as we waited for responses while seeking to resolve this issue. However, all efforts to obtain the transcript were to no avail.

At this point, it appears that there is no recording available of the pretrial hearing in question that can be transcribed; and therefore, unfortunately, it is not possible to produce a transcript of the same. Normally, under such a scenario as this, a motion seeking an Order to allow a hearing to reconstruct the pre-trial hearing record would be filed. However, based on a review of the Trial Record at pages 59-74, it is apparent that Judge Griffith's dialogue with

appellant and trial counsel on the subjects addressed at the pre-trial hearing were in effect resolved and the trial commenced thereafter. Note that these requests for the hearing transcript in question were submitted out of an abundance of caution.

Accordingly, based on the information submitted above, the undersigned counsel would now request that the above titled appeal be lifted out of abeyance and a date set on which to file the initial brief of appellant and designation of matter to be included in the record with the Court. I am available in the event the Court has any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wanda H. Carter', written in a cursive style.

Wanda H. Carter
Chief Appellate Defender

WHC/sl

cc: Mark R. Farthing, Esquire