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FEB 27 2026

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Appellate Court

APPEAL FROM GREENVILLE COUNTY
Court of General Sessions

The Honorable Alex Kinlaw, Circuit Court Judge
The Honorable Patrick C. Fant, Circuit Court Judge

Case No(s): 2022A2330207873; 2023GS2300122

The State,

Respondent.

v.

Braden Spears Bowers,

Appellant.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Braden Spears Bowers appeals his conviction and sentence in this case. Mr. Bowers pled guilty on January 9, 2023 before the Honorable Alex Kinlaw, with sentencing deferred. On March 21, 2024, the Honorable Patrick C. Fant sentenced Mr. Bowers in his absence over objection and sealed the sentence. On February 13, 2026, the Honorable Patrick C. Fant unsealed and announced the sentence.

Date: February 23, 2026



Michael Martinez, Esq.
13th Circuit Public Defender
305 E North Street
Greenville, SC 29601
Attorney for Appellant

Other Counsel of Record:

Cindy Crick
Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Office
305 E. North Street, Suite 325
Greenville, SC 29601
Attorney for Respondent

FILED: 126FEB23PM2:24
COC JAY GRESHAM GUL SC

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
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The Honorable Alex Kinlaw, Circuit Court Judge
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Case No(s).: 2022A2330207873; 2023GS2300122

The State,

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v.

Braden Spears Bowers,

Appellant.


PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on the below listed respondents by depositing a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on February 20, 2026, addressed to:

Solicitor Cindy Crick
Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Office
305 E. North Street, Suite 325
Greenville, SC 29601

Attorney General Alan Wilson, Esq.
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

Date: February 23, 2026



Michael Martinez, Esq.
13th Circuit Public Defender
305 E North Street
Greenville, SC 29601
Attorney for Appellant



13TH CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Mindy Hervey Lipinski, CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Greenville Public Defender Office

Greenville County Courthouse
305 East North Street, Suite 123
Greenville, SC 29601 | (864) 467-8522

Greenville Juvenile and Magistrate Office

Greenville County Family Court Complex
350 Halton Road, Suite 300
Greenville, SC 29607 | (864) 467-8330

Pickens Public Defender Office

Pickens County Courthouse
214 East Main Street, Suite 310
Pickens, SC 29671 | (864) 467-8025

February 23, 2026

Via Regular Mail

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

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SC Court of Appeals

Re: State v. Braden Spears Bowers

Case No(s): **2022A2330207873; 2023GS2300122**

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Enclosed you will find the original Notice of Appeal in the above matter along with Proof of Service upon the Respondents. The Notice has been filed with the Greenville County Clerk of Court. Also enclosed is a copy of the indictment, sentencing sheet, Motion to Reconsider, and Order Denying Motion to Reconsider, the Rule 203 explanation of issue, and a letter to Braden Spears Bowers regarding the Rule 203 explanation. These matters are being referred to the Office of Appellate Defense in that we were participating as Court appointed counsel at trial.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,

GREENVILLE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

By: 

Michael Martinez, Esq.

13th Circuit Public Defender

305 E North Street

Greenville, SC 29601

Attorney for Appellant

Enclosures

cc: Office of the Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor
Office of the Attorney General
Office of Appellate Defense
Braden Bowers



13TH CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Mindy Hervey Lipinski, CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Greenville Public Defender Office
Greenville County Courthouse
305 East North Street, Suite 123
Greenville, SC 29601 | (864) 467-8522

Greenville Juvenile and Magistrate Office
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Greenville, SC 29607 | (864) 467-8330

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Pickens, SC 29671 | (864) 467-8025

February 23, 2026

Via Regular Mail

Della White
S.C. Office of Appellate Defense
P.O. Box 11433
Columbia, SC 29211

RECEIVED

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SC Court of Appeals

Re: State v. Braden Spears Bowers
Case No(s): **2022A2330207873; 2023GS2300122**

Dear Ms. White:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Notice of Appeal in the above matter. There were three separate hearings relevant to the appeal of this matter. I have included the date and Court Reporter information applicable to each hearing below.

Also enclosed are copies of our letters to the Court of Appeals and the Attorney General's office as well as Proof of Service on all parties involved. Copies of the sentencing sheet, indictment, Motion to Reconsider and Order Denying Motion to Reconsider, and Rule 203 Explanation of Issue are also enclosed.

January 9, 2023 Guilty Plea

April Herron, AHerron@sccourts.org
P.O. Box 17675, Greenville, SC 29606

March 21, 2024 Sentencing in Absence

Cheryl Smith, CASmith@sccourts.org
P.O. Box 80032, Simpsonville, SC 29680

February 13, 2026 Unsealing of Sentence

Cheryl Smith (contact info above)

Please let us know what further service we can be in this matter.

Yours very truly,

GREENVILLE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

By: Michael Martinez
Michael Martinez, Esq.

13TH CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Mindy Hervey Lipinski, CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Greenville Public Defender Office
Greenville County Courthouse
305 East North Street, Suite 123
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Pickens County Courthouse
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Pickens, SC 29671 | (864) 467-8025

February 23, 2026

Via Regular Mail

Braden Bowers, Inmate No. 00400112
Kirkland Correctional Institution
4344 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

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SC Court of Appeals

Re: State v. Braden Spears Bowers

Case No(s): **2022A2330207873; 2023GS2300122**

Dear Mr. Bowers:

As you requested and we discussed, I have filed and served the notice of appeal from your conviction and sentence imposed on February 13, 2026. Please find enclosed a copy of all documents filed for purposes of the appeal. Any further representation in this matter will be conducted by the South Carolina Office of Appellate Defense.

Pursuant to Rule 203(d)(1)(B)(iv), South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, you are required to provide the appellate court with an explanation of an issue that may be reviewed on appeal. As you can see, I have submitted an explanation of issue on your behalf; however, I am notifying you that you may also submit your own explanation of an issue on appeal to the appellate court at the following address:

South Carolina Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

Yours very truly,

GREENVILLE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

By: Michael Martinez

Michael Martinez, Esq.
13th Circuit Public Defender
305 E North Street
Greenville, SC 29601
Attorney for Appellant



13TH CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Mindy Hervey Lipinski, CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Greenville Public Defender Office
Greenville County Courthouse
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Pickens Public Defender Office
Pickens County Courthouse
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Pickens, SC 29671 | (864) 467-8025

February 23, 2026

Via Regular Mail

Attorney General Alan Wilson, Esq.
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

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SC Court of Appeals

Re: State v. Braden Spears Bowers

Case No(s): **2022A2330207873; 2023GS2300122**

Dear Attorney General Wilson:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Notice of Appeal, Rule 203 Explanation of Issue, Indictment and Sentencing Sheet, Motion to Reconsider and Order Denying Motion to Reconsider in the above matter along with Proof of Service. This matter is being referred to the Office of Appellate Defense.

Yours very truly,

Greenville COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

By: Michael Martinez
Michael Martinez, Esq.
13th Circuit Public Defender
305 E North Street
Greenville, SC 29601
Attorney for Appellant

Enclosure(s)



13TH CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Mindy Hervey Lipinski, CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

Greenville Public Defender Office
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February 23, 2026

Via Regular Mail

Solicitor Cindy Crick
Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Office
305 E. North Street, Suite 325
Greenville, SC 29601-2185

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SC Court of Appeals

Re: State v. Braden Spears Bowers
Case No(s): **2022A2330207873; 2023GS2300122**

Dear Solicitor Crick:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Notice of Appeal, Rule 203 Explanation of Issue, Indictment and Sentencing Sheet, Motion to Reconsider and Order Denying Motion to Reconsider in the above matter along with Proof of Service. This matter is being referred to the Office of Appellate Defense.

Yours very truly,

GREENVILLE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

By: Michael Martinez
Michael Martinez, Esq.
13th Circuit Public Defender
305 E North Street
Greenville, SC 29601
Attorney for Appellant

Enclosures

CERTIFIED MAIL



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Retail



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13th Circuit Public Defender
Greenville County Courthouse
305 E. North Street, Suite 123
Greenville, SC 29601

MM

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk, The S.C. Court of Appeals
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