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SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM AIKEN COUNTY
Eugene C. Griffith, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2024-000592
Case No. 2020-CP-02-2238

Cassiopia Rhoads, Respondent-Appellant,

v.

Aiken County Sheriff's Office, Appellant-Respondent.

**APPELLANT-RESPONDENT'S RETURN TO
SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICE'S
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE *AMICUS CURIAE* BRIEF**

On February 11, 2026, the South Carolina Association of Justice filed a motion for leave to file an amicus curiae brief in this appeal. The Appellant-Respondent Aiken County Sheriff's Office takes no position on this motion and leaves it to the Court's discretion as to whether the Court will benefit in any respect from the position of the South Carolina Association of Justice on the issues

raised in this appeal. However, in the event that the Court does grant the motion and accepts the conditionally filed brief as an amicus curiae brief, the Sheriff's Office requests pursuant to Rule 213, SCACR, that a briefing schedule be established that permits the Sheriff's Office to address the arguments made in that amicus curiae brief.

LINDEMANN LAW FIRM, P.A.

BY: s/ Andrew F. Lindemann
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*Counsel for Appellant-Respondent
Aiken County Sheriff's Office*

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Section (d)(1) of the Supreme Court's Order Methods of Electronic Filing and Service Under Rule 262 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules (As Amended April 24, 2024), the undersigned employee of Lindemann Law Firm, P.A., counsel for Aiken County Sheriff's Office, does hereby certify that service of the **Appellant-Respondent's Return to South Carolina Association of Justice's Motion for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Brief** in the above-captioned matter was made upon all counsel of record by email only this the 5th day of March 2026, as follows:

Francis M. Hinson, IV, Esquire
HHP Law Group, LLC
Email: brink@hhplawgroup.com

Patrick J. McLaughlin, Esquire
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s/ Andrew F. Lindemann



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March 5, 2026

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**Also Admitted in North Carolina*

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SC Court of Appeals

Via Email Only

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of Court
South Carolina Court of Appeals
Email: ctappfilings@sccourts.org

RE: Cassiopia Rhoads v. Aiken County Sheriff's Office
Appellate Case Number: 2024-000592
Civil Action Number: 2020-CP-02-2238
Claim Number: 2020G00077
Our File Number: 333.20304

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Pursuant to Section (b)(2) of the Supreme Court's Order RE: Methods of Electronic Filing and Service Under Rule 262 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules (as Amended April 24, 2024), please find enclosed for filing the **Appellant-Respondent's Return to South Carolina Association of Justice's Motion for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Brief** with regard to the above-referenced matter. By copy of this letter, I am serving a copy on all counsel of record by email only pursuant to Section (d)(1) of the same Supreme Court Order.

If you have any questions, please advise. Thank you for your assistance.

LINDEMANN LAW FIRM, P.A.

Andrew F. Lindemann

AFL/
Enclosures

cc: Francis M. Hinson, IV, Esquire (*w/ Enclosure, Via Email Only*)
Patrick J. McLaughlin, Esquire (*w/ Enclosure, Via Email Only*)
Frank L. Eppes, Esquire (*w/ Enclosure, Via Email Only*)