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**Mar 09 2026**

**SC Court of Appeals**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In the Court of Appeals

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Appeal from Spartanburg County  
The Honorable J. Mark Hayes, II, Circuit Court Judge

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THE STATE,

Appellant,

v.

CASEY DOUGLAS,

Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2025-000914

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**MOTION FOR FOURTH EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE  
INITIAL BRIEF OF RESPONDENT AND  
DESIGNATION OF MATTER**

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Undersigned counsel would respectfully request a thirty (30) day extension up to and including April 8, 2026, in which to serve and file the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter in the above-referenced case. Mr. Johnson has consented to all extension requests through March 31, 2026. In support of this motion, counsel would respectfully show the Court the following:

Appellant's Initial Brief and Designation of Matter are due today, March 9, 2026, pursuant to this Court's Order dated February 6, 2026. Though much of the work has been previously completed, counsel for Appellant has not been able to properly finish the brief for filing within the allotted time due to other state and federal matters, notably several oral arguments either needing assistance in preparation or preparation for the undersigned to

present argument, which left inadequate time to address the few matters remaining to complete the briefing. This is along with a very heavy caseload at the present time, including capital case work, as well. The work includes: completing with co-counsel and filing an initial brief of respondent in this Court (*Mustafa Salaam, February 5, 2026*); reviewing and approving joint status report in a capital federal habeas corpus action (*James Robertson, February 5, 2026*); prepared and filed a response to objections in a federal habeas corpus action (*Rashaun Foster, February 10, 2026*); prepared and filed a response in opposition to summary judgment motion in a federal habeas corpus action (*Michael Braxton, February 10, 2026*); engaged in oral argument final preparation and attended argument in a murder direct appeal in the Supreme Court of South Carolina (*Alexander Murdaugh, February 11, 2026*); attended a WebEx status conference for a capital PCR case (*Timothy Jones, February 12, 2025*), and drafting a short scheduling order and reviewing language with proposed edits for an order to evaluate competency in that same case; prepared and filed a reply to objections in a non-capital federal habeas corpus action (*Emmanuel Rodriguez, February 17, 2026*); prepared and filed reply to objections in a federal habeas corpus action (*Marquis McDonald, February 18, 2026*); prepared and filed a response in opposition to Rule 59(e) motion in a non-capital federal habeas action (*Xavier Perry, February 19, 2026*); prepared and filed a response in opposition to motion for judicial notice in another non-capital federal habeas corpus action (*Dupree Evans, February 26, 2025*); prepared and filed a response in opposition to motion for presentment of documents and contempt hearing in a non-capital federal habeas action (*Rashawn Carter, February 27, 2026*); reviewed and filed a status report in a capital federal habeas corpus action (*Bobby Stone, March 2, 2026*); prepared for oral argument scheduled in this Court (but not held) (*Don L. Brown, March 3, 2026*); completed notice of filing of state court documents for capital federal habeas action (*Marion Lindsey, March 5, 2026*); and,

prepared and filed a return and memorandum of law in support of motion for summary judgment in a non-capital federal habeas action (*Demond Burgess, March 6, 2026*). Counsel is also currently scheduled to present oral argument in this Court in two separate cases in this Court this week (*Clinton Beebe, March 10, 2026; Morgan Carr, March 11, 2026*), and is preparing a return to petition for writ of certiorari to be filed in our Supreme Court on or before March 11, 2026, (*Quayshaun Clark*).

Due to counsel's involvement in these and other matters pending in state and federal court, and considering counsel's administrative responsibilities as supervisor for murder appeals, federal habeas corpus actions, and capital litigation, undersigned counsel has been unable to timely complete the brief in this direct appeal. For the above reasons, Appellant is requesting a thirty (30) day extension of time in which to complete briefing in the captioned murder direct appeal. Counsel will prioritize the completion of this brief following the completion of oral arguments in this Court scheduled for this week.

This request is made in good faith, and not for the purpose of simple delay, but for the reasons outlined above.

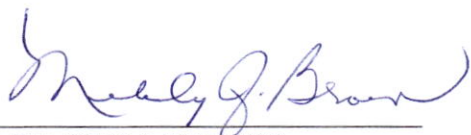
Respectfully Submitted,

ALAN WILSON  
Attorney General

DONALD J. ZELENKA  
Deputy Attorney General

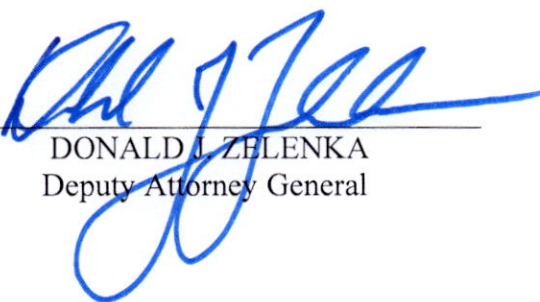
MELODY J. BROWN  
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General  
S.C. Bar No. 14244

Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
(803) 734-6305

By:   
MELODY J. BROWN  
ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

March 9, 2026.

I support the finding of good cause.

By:   
DONALD J. ZELENSKA  
Deputy Attorney General

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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

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The undersigned certifies that pursuant to Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR and the Supreme Court order of April 24, 2024, the Motion for Extension of Time to Serve and File the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter, along with Certificate of Service has been forwarded to Respondent's counsel, Michael A. Berry, Esquire at [mberry@spartanburgcounty.org](mailto:mberry@spartanburgcounty.org) and Gary H. Johnson, Esquire via email today, March 9, 2026 to [ghjohnson@sccid.sc.gov](mailto:ghjohnson@sccid.sc.gov) and to his assistant at [sleverett@sccid.sc.gov](mailto:sleverett@sccid.sc.gov).

I further certify that all parties required by Rule to be served have been served. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

*s/ Angela Brown*  
Administrative Coordinator

## Angela Brown

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**From:** Angela Brown  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 5:03 PM  
**To:** gjohnson@sccid.sc.gov; mberry@spartanburgcounty.org; Leverett, Scott  
**Cc:** Melody Brown  
**Subject:** The State v. Casey Douglas - Motion for Extension (2025-000914)  
**Attachments:** Douglas.Motion for Extension for IBOA.pdf

Counsel, please find attached the state's motion for an extension of time to serve and file the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter in the above appeal. The motion will be electronically filed with the Court of Appeals on today's date.

Thank you,

**Angela Bennett Brown, Administrative Coordinator II**  
Office of the South Carolina Attorney General  
Criminal Division | Office [803-734-0368](tel:803-734-0368) | [Abennett@scag.gov](mailto:Abennett@scag.gov)  
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