

Mar 16 2026

SC Court of Appeals

From: [Tony Williams](#)
To: [ODCmail](#); [Weaver, William](#)
Cc: [Melling, Andrew](#); [Gibson, Lisa](#); [compliance@lowes.com](#); [Michelle Gaston](#); [Court Of Appeals Filings](#)
Subject: FORMAL COMPLAINT TO THE OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL (ODC)
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2026 11:14:02 AM

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COMPLAINANT: Tony Williams

RESPONDENTS: Andrew Melling Bar No. 9521(Burr & Forman); Michelle Gaston Bar No. 107320 (Steptoe & Johnson)

DATE: March 15, 2026

STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

This complaint is filed regarding a coordinated and systemic pattern of **Extrinsic Fraud** and **Attorney Incapacity** perpetrated across multiple dockets in the South Carolina Court of Common Pleas and the Court of Appeals.

I. THE PROCUREMENT OF "GHOST ORDERS"

Respondents have utilized their Bar Licenses to procure and file "Ghost Orders"—documents that purport to be judicial orders but lack any entry in the **Judicial Information Center (JIC)** or **C-Track** systems.

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Evidence of Fraud: Official records from the South Carolina Judicial Branch confirm that while Respondents claimed cases were "Dismissed" via these orders, the cases remained "**Active**" in the state's official system of record.

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Systemic Nature: Identical orders, bearing the same date and purported judicial signature, were used in **Appellate Case No. 2026-000079/ Lower Court Case 2025-CP-07-01666** and **Appellate Case No. 2026-00317/Lower Court Case No. 2025-CP-07-01325**, proving a manufactured pattern of deception rather than a clerical error.

II. LITIGATION WHILE IN CERTIFIED DEFAULT

Respondents are currently attempting to litigate and substitute counsel while in a state of **Certified Default**.

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Melling: Is in Certified Default in Case 2025-CP-07-01666.

- **Gaston/Lowe's/Step toe and Johnson:** Are in Certified Default in Case 2025-CP-07-02967.
- **The Violation:** Under *Thynes v. Lloyd*, a defaulted party is "out of court." Respondents' continued filings while in default constitute a fraud upon the tribunal and a violation of **Rule 3.3 (Candor toward the Tribunal)**.

III. IRRECONCILABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (RULE 1.7)

Michelle Gaston is attempting to substitute as counsel for Lowe's while her firm (Step toe & Johnson) and her client (Lowe's) are in Certified Default(2025-CP-07-02967) for the very fraud she is being asked to defend. Furthermore, she has filed a response **only for herself**, abandoning her client's defense to protect her own interests.

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

I respectfully request that the ODC initiate an immediate investigation into the following violations of the **South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC)**:

1. **Rule 3.3:** Knowingly making false statements of fact to a tribunal regarding the status of orders.
2. **Rule 8.4(c) & (d):** Engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, and deceit that is prejudicial to the administration of justice.
3. **Rule 3.7:** Acting as an advocate in a matter where the lawyer is a material witness to the underlying administrative fraud.

The Appellant's spouse remains in the ICU due to the **Tort of Outrage** exacerbated by this fraudulent litigation. The integrity of the South Carolina Bar requires that these licenses be suspended immediately.

s/ **Tony Williams**

145 Fort Sullivan Drive

Ridgeland SC 29936

Twtony6371@gmail.com

843-263-4488