

FORM 1
NOTICE OF APPEAL IN A CIVIL CASE

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM Richland COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

Daniel Coble, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2025 - CP 40-04675 / 2025-CP-40-
06986

BRANDI N. BARNETT

Appellant/Respondent,

Luke Shealey, Esq. v.

Appellant/Respondent.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Brandi N. Barnett (Name) appeals the order of the Honorable Daniel Coble (Judge) dated

2/14/2026 (Date). Appellant received written notice of entry of this order on

3/16/2026 (Date).

Date: MARCH 26, 2026

Brandi N. Barnett
Name: BRANDI N. BARNETT
Address: 10993 Ocean Hwy Unit 26
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
Phone: (347) 921-9070
Email: bbarnett3@gmail.com

Other Counsel of Record:

Name: Douglas Walker Mackelcan, III

Address: 40 Calhoun Street
Suite 400 Charleston, SC 29401

Phone: (843) 722-0307

Respondent/Attorney for Respondent

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MAR 26 2026

SC Court of Appeals

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CASE NO.: 2025-CP-40-06986

RECEIVED

MAR 26 2026

SC Court of Appeals

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Notice is hereby given that Plaintiff, Brandi N. Barnett, proceeding pro se, appeals to the South Carolina Court of Appeals from the final written Order entered on or about February 25, 2026, dismissing Plaintiff's action with prejudice, imposing sanctions, and entering a prefiling injunction.

This appeal is taken pursuant to Rule 203(b)(1), SCACR.

I. ORDER APPEALED FROM

Plaintiff appeals from the final Order entered by this Court on or about February 25, 2026, including all rulings incorporated therein, specifically:

- The dismissal of Plaintiff's action with prejudice
- The imposition of sanctions under Rule 11 and related authority
- The entry of a prefiling injunction restricting future filings

II. NATURE OF THE CASE

This matter arises from Plaintiff's civil action based on a fee dispute in which the South Carolina Bar Fee Disputes Board determined that a refund was owed.

Plaintiff filed the action based on the non-payment of that refund and supporting findings, establishing a legitimate basis for the claim.

III. BASIS FOR APPEAL

1. Improper Sanctions – The Court imposed sanctions despite the existence of a legitimate claim supported by findings that funds were owed.
2. Lack of Individualized Findings – The Court failed to make individualized findings required under Rule 11, SCRCP.
3. First Pro Se Filing – Plaintiff had no prior litigation history supporting sanctions or a prefiling restriction.
4. Due Process Violation – The Court relied on materials not fully disclosed to Plaintiff, depriving Plaintiff of a meaningful opportunity to respond.
5. Legal Error – The dismissal with prejudice and sanctions were inconsistent with governing legal standards and the underlying factual record.

IV. RELIEF REQUESTED

Plaintiff respectfully requests that the appellate court reverse the imposition of sanctions, vacate the dismissal with prejudice and prefiling injunction, and grant such other relief as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandi N. Barnett

Brandi N. Barnett

10993 Ocean Hwy Unit 2123

Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Date: MARCH 26, 2026

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this Notice of Appeal was served by U.S. Mail upon:

Luke Shealey

Shealey Law Firm

1507 Richland Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Douglas Mackelon Taylor

Copeland, Stair, Valz & Lovell, LLP

40 Calhoun Street, Suite 400

Charleston, SC 29401

on this 26th day of MARCH, 2026.

Brandi N. Barnett

Brandi N. Barnett

RECEIVED

MAR 26 2026

SC Court of Appeals

RECEIVED

MAR 26 2026

SC Court of Appeals

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

CASE NO.: 2025-CP-40-04675

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Notice is hereby given that Plaintiff, Brandi N. Barnett, proceeding pro se, appeals to the South Carolina Court of Appeals from the final written Order entered on or about February 25, 2026, dismissing Plaintiff's appeal of the South Carolina Bar Fee Disputes Board determination.

This appeal is taken pursuant to Rule 203(b)(1), SCACR.

I. ORDER APPEALED FROM

Plaintiff appeals from the final Order entered by this Court on or about February 25, 2026, including all rulings incorporated therein, specifically:

- The dismissal of Plaintiff's appeal pursuant to Rule 20(f)
- The dismissal of the South Carolina Bar Fee Disputes Board as a party

II. NATURE OF THE CASE

This matter arises from a fee dispute in which the South Carolina Bar Fee Disputes Board determined that a refund was owed due to a violation of Rule 1.5, South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct.

The Board's findings confirmed that money was owed to Plaintiff, establishing a legitimate underlying dispute and factual basis for the claim.

III. BASIS FOR APPEAL

1. Improper Dismissal – The Court dismissed Plaintiff's appeal despite the existence of a valid fee dispute and findings that a refund was owed.
2. Misapplication of Rule 20(f) – The Court improperly applied Rule 20(f).
3. Due Process Violation – The Board relied on timesheets that were never provided to Plaintiff.
4. Improper Conversion of Fee Agreement – The Board improperly converted a flat fee agreement into an hourly calculation.
5. Legal Error in Refund Determination – The refund determination was inconsistent with governing legal principles.
6. Failure to Consider Material Evidence – Respondent offered a \$4,000 refund which was not considered.
7. Consideration of Improper Material – Investigative report included irrelevant statements.
8. Failure to Address Evidence of Procedural Unfairness – Court failed to address these issues.

IV. RELIEF REQUESTED

Plaintiff respectfully requests reversal, remand, and such other relief as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandi N. Barnett

Brandi N. Barnett

10993 Ocean Hwy Unit 2123

Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Date: MARCH 26, 2026

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Charleston, SC 29401

on this 26th day of MARCH, 2026.

Brandi N. Barnett

Brandi N. Barnett

RECEIVED

MAR 26 2026

SC Court of Appeals

FORM 7
PROOF OF SERVICE OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

RECEIVED

MAR 26 2026

SC Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM RICHLAND COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

Daniel Coble, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2025-CP-40-04675 / 2025-CP-40-06986

BRANDI N. BARNETT

Appellant/Respondent,

LUKE SHEALEY, Esq. v.

Appellant/Respondent.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(Court of Common Pleas)

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on Luke Shealey by depositing
(Name)
a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on MARCH 26, 2026 addressed to,
(Date)

Douglas Walker Mackelcan, III
40 Calhoun St Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29401

Date: MARCH 26, 2026

s/ Brandi N. Barnett
Address: 10993 Ocean Hwy
Unit 2123
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Court of Common Pleas
1701 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201