

In The South Carolina Court of Appeals

Appellate Case No. 2023-001372

Lawton Leroy Holloway
Petitioner,
v.
State of South Carolina
Respondent.

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APR 02 2026

SC Court of Appeals

Petitioner's Pro Se Supplemental Response

Petitioner, Lawton Leroy Holloway, respectfully submits this PRO SE Supplemental Response so that this Court may consider a jurisdictional defect not addressed in Counsel's Johnson filing.

This case presents more than ordinary trial error. The jury was instructed that malice could be inferred from the use of a deadly weapon, while the charge omitted the required limiting principle that such an inference is not permitted where evidence of legal mitigation exists. By removing that limitation, the trial Court allowed the jury to treat malice as established from the use of a weapon without requiring a constitutionally proper determination of the element under the full governing law. As a result, the jury was not empowered to determine guilt under lawful constitutional standards.

A verdict returned under an unconstitutional framework on an essential element is no lawful verdict at all. In the absence of a lawful verdict, the trial court lacked constitutional authority to enter judgment, and the resulting conviction is void.

This defect is structural in nature. It is not cured by waiver, harmless-error analysis, or the mere existence of prior proceedings. An affirmance cannot supply constitutional authority that was absent when judgment was entered.

For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully request that this Court consider whether the conviction rest upon a void judgment entered without a constitutionally valid verdict and grant such relief as law and justice require.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lawton Leroy Holloway, Pro Se
379523

Perry Correctional Q1B-115

430 Oaklawn Road

Pelzer SC 29669

Date: 4/1/2026

Certificate of Service

I certify that I served a copy of this Pro Se Supplemental Response by placing it in the U.S. Mail, properly addressed and postage paid on this 1 day of April 2026, to:

SC Commission on Indigent Defense

Wanda H. Carter, Esquire

130 Landy St. Suite 401

P.O. Box 11589

Columbia, SC 29211

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SC Attorney General

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SC Court of Appeals

Lawton Leroy Holloway

Lawton Leroy Holloway Pro SE 379523

LH

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April 1, 2026

SC Court of Appeals
Jenny Abbott Kitchings, Clerk
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

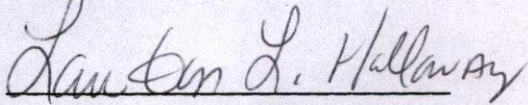
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RE: Supplemental Response

Dear Clerk,

Enclosed you will find a copy of my Supplemental Response. I have sent to the attorney on file and the court. Your help in filing my response will surely be appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lawton Leroy Holloway

Pro Se 379523

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SOUTH CAROLINA COURT of APPEALS
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