

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE SUPREME COURT

**RECEIVED**

**Apr 10 2026**

**S.C. SUPREME COURT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certiorari to the Court of Appeals  
Appeal from Lexington County  
Honorable Debra R. McCaslin, Circuit Court Judge  
\_\_\_\_\_

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

JUSTIN TYLER ELLAREE HOPKINS,

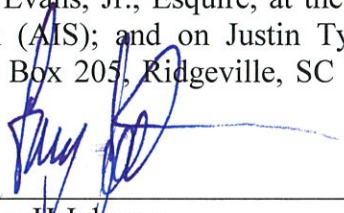
PETITIONER

Opinion No. 6126 (S.C. Ct. App. Filed December 3, 2025)

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2026-000488

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to Rule 262(a)(3) and Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR, the undersigned hereby certifies a true copy of the Reply to the Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Appeals in the above-referenced case has been served upon Tommy Evans, Jr., Esquire, at the primary e-mail address listed in the Attorney Information System (AIS); and on Justin Tyler Ellaree Hopkins, #389389, at Lieber Correctional Institution, PO Box 205, Ridgeville, SC 29472, this 10th day of April, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary H. Johnson  
Appellate Defender

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

**From:** [Mcinnis, Sara](#)  
**To:** [Tommy Evans, Jr.](#)  
**Cc:** [Brandy Rankin](#); [Johnson, Gary](#); [Leverett, Scott](#)  
**Subject:** 2026-000488 The State v. Justin T. Hopkins Reply to Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari  
**Date:** Friday, April 10, 2026 2:33:00 PM  
**Attachments:** AG Cover Letter - Reply to Return to COA Cert.pdf  
2026-000488 - State v. Justin Hopkins - Reply to Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Appeals.pdf

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Good Afternoon Mr. Evans,

Attached for service in the above-referenced case is the Reply to the Return to the Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Appeals, which will be filed with the Supreme Court today, April 10, 2026, via email filing.

Thank you,

Sara McInnis  
Administrative Assistant  
South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense  
Appellate Division  
(803) 734-1330