

RECEIVED

Apr 16 2026

SC Court of Appeals

IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

**APPEAL FROM GREENVILLE COUNTY
Court of General Sessions**

Jessica A. Salvini, Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2026-000906

State of South Carolina, Respondent,

v.

Jerry J. Ridgeway, Appellant.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL FOR APPELLANT

Adam G. Touma, Esquire
1820 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 803-3835
Attorney for Appellant

MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL FOR APPELLANT

Pursuant to Rule 240, SCACR, Attorney Adam G. Touma moves to withdraw as counsel of record in Appellant Jerry Ridgeway's pending case in this Court. The reasons for this motion are detailed below.

BACKGROUND

Appellant initially called the Touma Law Group for representation for charges involving Failure to Register as a Sex Offender 3rd or subsequent (2 counts), Driving Under Suspension, 2nd offense, and Simple Possession of Marijuana in January 2023. Appellant agreed to pay Mr. Touma a fee of \$8,000 to handle all the charges, with a retainer fee of \$3,000 and signed a fee agreement in January memorializing this agreement. Appellant, after multiple conversations, retained Mr. Touma on February 8, 2023, with half of the retainer Counsel initially required. It was later learned; Appellant's Summary Court offenses were previously disposed of prior to the retainer being paid and there was nothing Counsel could do for those charges at that time. Counsel continued to represent Appellant on all other matters.

ARGUMENT

As time progressed, Appellant became increasingly non-compliant with any direction provided by the counsel working on his cases, would repeatedly call the Solicitor's Office going around his counsel and the advice of such, and would routinely have other attorneys call the firm to work with Counsel on his case. While this was not an issue for Counsel initially, Appellant would never formally retain the other firms, and it eventually caused multiple confusing issues in his case for all parties involved.

Further, Appellant would be found to be dishonest about his payments, his activities, and would try to obtain additional counsel as illustrated above under false pretenses. Appellant routinely used fraudulent credit cards to make payments for his account creating many additional fees for Counsel who would refund the payments to the affected parties. Counsel filed multiple

Motions to be Relieved for non-payment, lack of adhering to Counsel's advice, a breakdown in communication, among other reasons; however, Counsel has always withdrawn them in hopes that he could assist Appellant through his many cases, bench warrants, and other matters. Yet, this attempt to assist him was deemed impossible.

Lastly, had Appellant not made the decision to resolve his cases when presented with his options, Counsel was prepared to file another Motion to Withdraw as Counsel for these same reasons due to the impossible working nature and relationship Counsel maintained with Appellant. Even obtaining his consent to this Motion after Appellant filed the Notice of Appeal *pro se* and without the intention of Counsel pursuing representation, would prove fruitless.

Counsel was unaware Appellant planned to file, or filed, this Notice of Appeal, and while Counsel is bound to remain Appellant's counsel until a withdraw is approved pursuant to Rule 264, SCACR, and will perform his duties with diligence, Counsel believes this is another way Appellant is using the system to further legal representation from Counsel without Counsel's needed meetings, required payment, or proper documents filed.

For these reasons, Appellant respectfully requests a hearing on this motion to withdraw from Appellant's case or, in the alternative, an Order removing Counsel as counsel of record for Appellant in this action.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Adam G. Touma
Adam G. Touma
Attorney for Appellant

TOUMA LAW GROUP
1820 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 803-3835
adam@toumalawgroup.com

RECEIVED

Apr 16 2026

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

APPEAL FROM GREENVILLE COUNTY

Court of General Sessions

Jessica A. Salvini, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2026-000906

State of South Carolina,

Respondent,

v.

Jerry J. Ridgeway,

Appellant.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Motion to Withdraw as Counsel for Appellant on the State of South Carolina by depositing a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on April 16, 2026, addressed to Respondent's attorney of record, Mark R. Farthing, Post Office Box 11549, Columbia, South Carolina, 29211.

s/Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones, PP, SC-Criminal, SCCP
Paralegal to Adam G. Touma

TOUMA LAW GROUP, LLC
1820 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 803-3835