

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

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May 28 2026

SC Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM GREENVILLE COUNTY
The Honorable Jane H. Merrill, Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2025-002337
Trial Court Case No. 2023-GS-23-00988

The State,

Respondent,

v.

Aaron Messiah Hodari Harper,

Appellant.

**MOTION FOR EXTENSION TO SERVE AND FILE APPELLANT'S INITIAL BRIEF
AND DESIGNATION OF MATTER**

Counsel for Aaron Messiah Hodari Harper respectfully requests a thirty (30) day extension, in which to serve and file the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter in this case. This is a third request for an extension. In support of this request, counsel shows:

1. The initial brief of appellant and designation of matter in this case are to due be filed and served on Monday, June 1, 2026;
2. Counsel is currently practicing law as an assistant public defender in Greenville County, representing indigent clients in the ordinary course of criminal trial practice;
3. As a result of this role, counsel has a heavy workload, which includes appearance in general sessions court two weeks out of every month;

4. Counsel is diligently working on the preparation of the Initial Brief in this matter, but due to the heavy workload presented by counsel's role as an assistant public defender, counsel is unable to complete the Brief prior to the expiration of the existing deadline;
5. In addition, counsel is out of the office on a previously-scheduled vacation the week of May 23 to May 30, 2026;
6. This request is made in good faith and not for purposes of delay;
7. Counsel does not anticipate any further requests for extension beyond this request.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned counsel respectfully requests a thirty-day extension from June 1, 2026 until July 1, 2026.

Respectfully,

s/ Michael G. Martinez
Michael G. Martinez, Esq.
Assistant Public Defender
THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER
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Attorney for Appellant

May 28, 2026

Martinez, Michael

From: Martinez, Michael
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 10:27 AM
To: Melody Brown; ccollins@scag.gov; 'Angela Brown'
Subject: The State v. Aaron M. H. Harper 2025-002337 - Third Request for Extension
Attachments: Motion for Third Extension.pdf

Good morning Melody,

I hope this email finds you well. Please find attached for service the Motion for Third Extension to Serve and File the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter for Aaron Harper's appeal, which will be filed today with the Court of Appeals.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Martinez
Assistant Public Defender
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