

RECEIVED

May 29 2026

SC Court of Appeals

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS**

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

The Honorable Thomas William McGee, III, Presiding Judge

**INDICTMENT NO(S): 2023-GS-10-05197, 2025-GS-10-00812
WARRANT NO(S):**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, RESPONDENT

vs.

JAVAR MITCHELL, APPELLANT

BY _____

JULIE J. ARMSTRONG
CLERK OF COURT

2025 MAY 29 PM 2:13

FILED

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Javar Mitchell appeals his convictions and sentences for Murder and Criminal Conspiracy, following a jury trial held from July 7, 2025 to July 10, 2025. Sentencing was deferred. A motion for new trial was filed on July 21, 2025, an addendum to that motion was filed on August 21, 2025, and a hearing was held on August 22, 2025. That motion was denied in an order filed on September 15, 2025. Mr. Mitchell was sentenced on May 26, 2026, and at that time,. The Honorable Thomas William McGee, III sentenced him to 35 yrs for Murder and 5 years for Criminal Conspiracy to run concurrent. Mr. Mitchell further appeals the decision to transfer jurisdiction from Family Court to General Sessions Court by the Honorable Mandy Kimmons following a waiver hearing held August 14-15, 2023.


Rachael C. Arora

Appointed Counsel for Javar Mitchell
Charleston County Public Defender's Office
101 Meeting Street, Suite 500
Charleston, SC 29401

Other counsel of record is:
Timothy Finch, Assistant Solicitor
Office of the Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit
O.T. Wallace County Office Building
101 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 958-1900

RECEIVED

May 29 2026

SC Court of Appeals

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS**

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

The Honorable Thomas William McGee, III, Presiding Judge

INDICTMENT NO.: 2023-GS-10-05197, 2025-GS-10-00812

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, RESPONDENT

vs.

JAVAR MITCHELL, APPELLANT

PROOF OF SERVICE

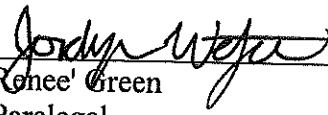
BY _____

JULIE J. ARMSTRONG
CLERK OF COURT

2026 MAY 29 PM 2:13

FILED

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on Timothy Finch, Assistant Solicitor for Charleston County, by hand delivering a copy of it to the Charleston County Solicitor's Office at 101 Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29401, on May 29, 2026.



Renee Green
Paralegal
Charleston County Public Defender's Office
101 Meeting Street, Suite 500
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 958-1850

Dated: May 29, 2026.

Berkeley County
219 N. Hwy 52, Suite E
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
(843) 899-2777

Keshia V. White
Berkeley County Public Defender
Cameron Jane Blazer
Circuit Public Defender



Charleston County
101 Meeting Street, 5th Floor
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 958-1850

Megan S. Ehrlich
Charleston County Public Defender
publicdefender@charlestoncounty.org

May 29, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk, South Carolina Court of Appeals
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RECEIVED
May 29 2026
SC Court of Appeals

Re: State of South Carolina vs. Javar Mitchell
Indictment.: 2023-GS-10-05197, 2025-GS-10-00812
Charge(s): Murder, Criminal Conspiracy

Dear Mrs. Kitchings:

Attached is the Notice of Intent to Appeal in the above-referenced case, together with appropriate Proof of Service upon the Circuit Solicitor and Proof of Filing with the local Clerk of Court who is copied on this email. The Defendant-Appellant was represented by our office as an indigent, pursuant to the Defense of Indigents Act. The Defendant-Appellant's case originated in Family Court, and a waiver/transfer of jurisdiction hearing was held August 14-15, 2023. Jurisdiction was transferred to General Sessions Court. The trial on this case started on July 7, 2025, and it was completed on July 10, 2025. Sentencing was deferred until a later date because the Defendant-Appellant was entitled to a sentencing hearing pursuant to *Aiken v. Byars*. A motion for a new trial was filed on July 21, 2025 as well as an addendum to the motion for new trial on August 21, 2025. The hearing on the motion for new trial was held on August 22, 2025, and that motion was denied in an order filed on September 15, 2025. The sentencing hearing was held on May 26, 2026, at which time the sentence was imposed. By copy of this letter, I am forwarding a duplicate set of these documents to the South Carolina Commission of Appellate Defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachael C. Arora".

Rachael C. Arora Appointed Counsel for Javar Mitchell
Charleston County Public Defender's Office
101 Meeting Street, Suite 500
Charleston, SC 29401

Enclosure(s): As stated above

cc: South Carolina Commission of Appellate Defense

Berkeley County
219 N. Hwy 52, Suite E
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
(843) 899-2777

Keshia V. White
Berkeley County Public Defender
Cameron Jane Blazer
Circuit Public Defender



Charleston County
101 Meeting Street, 5th Floor
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 958-1850

Megan S. Ehrlich
Charleston County Public Defender
publicdefender@charlestoncounty.org

May 29, 2026

South Carolina Office of Appellate Defense
Attention: Ms. Paula Murdugh
PO Box 11589
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RECEIVED
May 29 2026
SC Court of Appeals

Re: State of South Carolina vs. Javar Mitchell
Indictment.: 2023-GS-10-05197, 2025-GS-10-00812
Charge(s): Murder, Criminal Conspiracy

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed is a duplicate set of the Appeal papers, which I have forwarded to the Clerk of the South Carolina Court of Appeals concerning the above-subject defendant. This defendant was represented by our office as an indigent, pursuant to the Defense of Indigents Act.. The sentencing hearing was held on May 26, 2026. It is requested that your office assume the Appeal of this case.

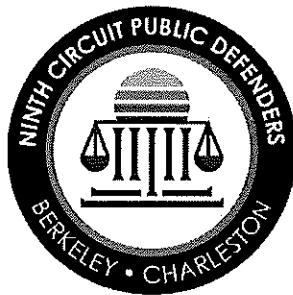
This case has a complex procedural history that is outlined below:

Juvenile Petitions filed in Family Court: November 1, 2021
Petition to Transfer to General Sessions filed by the State: November 19, 2021
Transfer Hearing heard in Family court before Judge Kimmons: August 14-15, 2023
Jury Trial (Judge McGee): July 7 – July 10, 2025 (joint trial with codefendant Jaquan Washington)
(Several pretrial motions were filed in this case, including but not limited to: *Motion to Remand to Family Court (filed May 30, 2025 – denied by Judge McGee in oral ruling; Motion to Several (filed May 30, 2025, Addendum filed July 3, 2025) – denied by Judge McGee in oral ruling*
Verdict reached on July 10, 2025: sentencing deferred
Motion for New Trial filed July 21, 2025; Addendum to motion filed on August 21, 2025
Motion for a New Trial Heard: August 22, 2025
Order Filed Denying Motion for New Trial: September 15, 2025
Sentencing Hearing and sentence imposed (Judge McGee): May 26, 2026

The name of the Court Report for the jury trial, held July 7 – 10, 2025, is Yvestre Torres. The trial transcript was requested and received by our office in advance of the defendant's sentencing hearing. The Motion for New Trial, held August 22, 2025 was held via Judge McGee's virtual sealed courtroom. The name of the court reporter for the sentencing hearing, held May 26, 2026 is Melissa Singletary.

Berkeley County
219 N. Hwy 52, Suite E
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
(843) 899-2777

Keshia V. White
Berkeley County Public Defender
Cameron Jane Blazer
Circuit Public Defender



Charleston County
101 Meeting Street, 5th Floor
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 958-1850

Megan S. Ehrlich
Charleston County Public Defender
publicdefender@charlestoncounty.org

In addition, a waiver hearing was held in Family Court in this matter from August 14-15, 2023. The Court Reporter for that hearing was Jeanne Meldrim. My office also requested and received a copy of this transcript prior to the Defendant's jury trial and sentencing hearing.

I have enclosed documents usually requested by your office. If I can be of assistance by discussing this case with you, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Rachael C. Arora Appointed Counsel for Javar Mitchell
Charleston County Public Defender's Office
101 Meeting Street, Suite 500
Charleston, SC 29401

Enclosure(s): As stated above

RECEIVED

May 29 2026

SC Court of Appeals