

RECEIVED

May 29 2026

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appellate Case No. 2026-001216

Julian Richards,

Appellant,

v.

Midland Credit Management, LLC,

Respondent.

MOTION TO ALLOW LATE FILING OF NOTICE OF APPEAL

PURSUANT TO RULE 203(d)(1)(B), SCACR

In support of this motion, Appellant states:

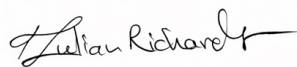
1. The Aiken County Court of Common Pleas denied Appellant's Rule 59(e) Motion to Reconsider by Order dated February 23, 2026.
2. Appellant filed and served a Notice of Appeal in the Aiken County Court of Common Pleas on March 23, 2026, within thirty (30) days of the February 23, 2026 Order. A copy of the filed Notice of Appeal is attached as Exhibit A.
3. Appellant also filed a Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis and a Motion to Stay Execution Pending Appeal in the lower court.
4. The Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis was granted on April 20, 2026.
5. The Motion to Stay Execution Pending Appeal was granted following a hearing held on May 7, 2026.
6. Appellant is self-represented and mistakenly believed that filing the Notice of Appeal with the lower court would cause the matter to be transmitted and docketed by the Court

of Appeals and that a scheduling or docketing notice would thereafter issue from the appellate court before further filings were required.

7. Appellant did not intentionally disregard the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. The delay resulted from a good-faith procedural misunderstanding by a pro se litigant.
8. Upon learning that the Court of Appeals had not received the Notice of Appeal in the manner required under the SCACR, Appellant promptly submitted the Notice of Appeal, Motion for Extension of Time, Appellant's Brief, Designation of Matter, Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis, and the appealed orders to the Court of Appeals.
9. Respondent will suffer no prejudice from allowing the late filing because Appellant timely filed the Notice of Appeal in the lower court, Respondent was aware of the appeal, and the appeal presents primarily legal issues concerning interpretation and enforcement of an arbitration agreement.

WHEREFORE, Appellant respectfully requests that this Court allow the late filing of the Notice of Appeal pursuant to Rule 203(d)(1)(B), SCACR, accept the appeal as filed, and grant such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,



Julian Richards

Pro Se Appellant

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Date: May 29, 2026

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appellate Case No. 2025-CP-02-02168

MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT, INC.,

Respondent,

v.

JULIAN RICHARDS,

Appellant.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Appellant Julian Richards, pro se, appeals to the South Carolina Court of Appeals from the following orders of the Aiken County Court of Common Pleas (Second Judicial Circuit):

1. The Order dated October 9, 2025, dismissing Appellant's de novo appeal from the North Augusta Summary Court and denying Appellant's Motion to Compel Arbitration; and
2. The Order dated February 23, 2026, denying Appellant's Motion to Reconsider pursuant to Rule 59(e), SCRCP.

This appeal is taken pursuant to Rule 203(b)(1), South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, and is timely filed within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice of entry of the February 23, 2026 Order.

This appeal raises issues including whether the trial court erred in denying Appellant's Motion to Compel Arbitration under the arbitration agreement governed by the Federal Arbitration Act.

FILED 3-23-26
Robert J. Boster
C.C.P. & G.S.
Bradell P. Price
Deputy Clerk

Appellant respectfully requests that this Court reverse the orders of the Court of Common Pleas and remand with instructions to compel arbitration and stay the proceedings, or grant such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 23, 2026, I served a true and correct copy of this Notice of Appeal upon counsel for Respondent by depositing the same in the United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Stephen Elias Fain, Esq.


P.O. Box 287

Columbia, SC 29202

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 23rd, 2026

Julian Richards



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