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Jun 12 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In The Supreme Court

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Certiorari to Abbeville County  
Honorable J. Derham Cole, Circuit Court Judge

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Appellate Case No. 2025-001346

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KARLITA DESEAN PHILLIPS,

Petitioner,

vs.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

Respondent.

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**MOTION FOR FOURTH EXTENSION OF TIME WITHIN WHICH  
TO SERVE AND FILE RETURN TO PETITION  
FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI**

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Respondent (“the State”), through its undersigned counsel, would respectfully show unto the Court as follows:

**I.**

The Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in this post-conviction relief appeal is due to be served and filed June 12, 2026.

**II.**

Pursuant to “RE: Extension Requests in Criminal Direct Appeals and Post-Conviction Relief Certiorari Proceedings” (Order of the South Carolina Supreme Court dated March 18, 2009), the State moves for a **fourth** extension in the above-referenced post-conviction relief appeal and asks for an additional thirty days to complete the Return in this case. In the past

several weeks, the undersigned counsel represented the State at an evidentiary hearing in the circuit court PCR matter of Antonio Simpkins v. State (2022-CP-02-00109), submitted a post-hearing brief in the circuit court PCR case of Jamel Good v. State (2015-CP-44-00065), and submitted a proposed order in the circuit court matter of Brittany Epps v. State (2019-CP-45-00296).

### III.

The undersigned counsel submits this extension request is supported by extraordinary circumstances and is not intended for purposes of delay. The undersigned counsel is currently working on the Return in this case and intends to have it finished in a timely manner. However, the undersigned counsel has not yet been able to finish the Return due to a heavy workload. Accordingly, to ensure the Return is properly researched and prepared, I would therefore request an additional extension of time within which to serve and file the Return.

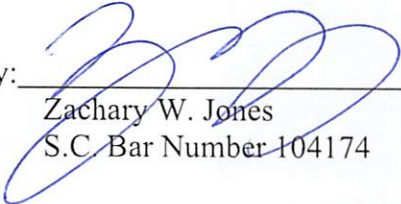
**WHEREFORE**, Respondent prays that the Court extend the deadline for the service and filing of the Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in this case for thirty days from the date such relief is granted; hold the matter in abeyance pending a ruling on Respondent's motion; and grant such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

ALAN WILSON  
Attorney General

ZACHARY W. JONES  
Assistant Attorney General

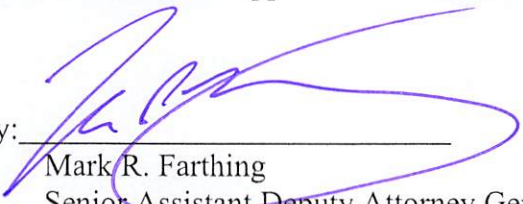
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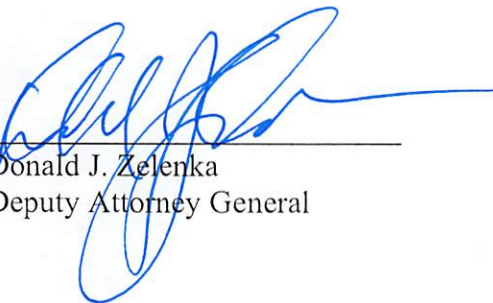
  
Zachary W. Jones  
S.C. Bar Number 104174

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ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

I have reviewed and approved this extension request.

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark R. Farthing  
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald J. Zelenka  
Deputy Attorney General

June 12, 2026