

RECEIVED

Jul 22 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Supreme Court

On Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Common Pleas
Appeal from Richland County
Honorable Donald B. Hocker, Post-Conviction Relief Judge

Appellate Case No. 2025-001994

Courtney S. Thompson, #360154,

Petitioner,

v.

State of South Carolina,

Respondent.

**MOTION FOR A FOURTH EXTENSION TO SERVE AND FILE THE
RETURN TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI**

Counsel for Respondent respectfully moves for a **fourth** and **final** extension of thirty (30) days in which to serve and file the Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in this case. This is a fourth request for an extension. In support of this request, counsel shows:¹

1. The Return to Petition for a Writ of Certiorari was due to be served and filed with the Court on July 22, 2026.

¹ In compliance with: In Re: Extensions in Criminal and Post-Conviction Relief Cases, (S.C. Sup. Ct. order dated March 18, 2009) (Davis Adv. Sh. No. 13 at 1).

2. Counsel for Respondent respectfully submits that extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant the granting of an additional time extension. Given the number of extensions previously granted and the order in which counsel attempts to manage her heavy caseload, Counsel hopes that no further extension requests will be required.
3. Counsel had a term of court on May 11-15, 2026, in the First Judicial Circuit, in which Counsel is preparing the orders.
4. Counsel had a term of court on June 1-5, 2026, in the Tenth Judicial Circuit, in which Counsel is preparing the orders.
5. Counsel is preparing for a term of court on August 10-14, 2026, in the First Judicial Circuit.
6. Counsel is preparing for a term of court on August 17-21, 2026, in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.
7. Counsel is preparing for a term of court on August 24-28, 2026, in the Sixth Judicial Circuit.
8. Counsel is preparing for a term of court on August 31-September 4, 2026, in the Tenth Judicial Circuit.
9. In the last month, Counsel has submitted returns with the Court in 2025-001091, 2025-01688, 2026-001101, 2026-001334, and 2026-001244.
10. This extension request is made in good faith and not intended for delay, but rather due to counsel's heavy workload and to ensure the return is properly researched and prepared.
11. Opposing counsel has graciously consented to this request via interagency agreement.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

WHEREFORE, the undersigned counsel would respectfully request a thirty-day extension in which to serve and file the Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in this case based upon the above exigent circumstances.

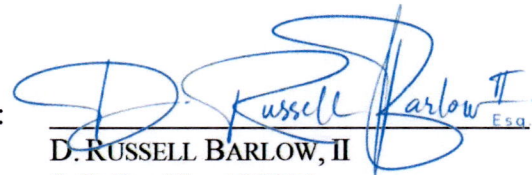
Respectfully submitted,

ALAN WILSON
Attorney General

DONALD J. ZELENKA
Deputy Attorney General

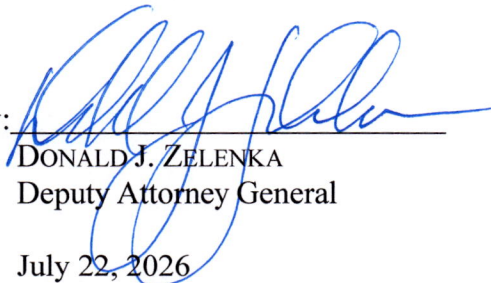
D. RUSSELL BARLOW, II
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

BY:



D. RUSSELL BARLOW, II
S.C. Bar No. 105228
Office of the Attorney General
Post Office Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 734-3737
ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

I have reviewed and approved this extension request.

By: 
DONALD J. ZELENKA
Deputy Attorney General
July 22, 2026