

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Calhoun County
Honorable Heath P. Taylor, Circuit Court Judge
Appellate Case No. 2025-002564

RECEIVED

Jul 23 2026

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE,

Respondent,

vs.

SHANEEKA MONET STROMAN,

Appellant.

SUPPLEMENTAL RECORD ON APPEAL

SHANEEKA STROMAN
Pro Se Appellant

335 Horse Neck Rd.
Swansea, SC 29160

PRO SE APPELLANT

ALAN WILSON
Attorney General

MARK R. FARTHING
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

Post Office Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 734-3727

DAVID M. PASCOE, JR.
Solicitor, First Judicial Circuit

Post Office Box 1525
Orangeburg, SC 29116
(803) 533-6252

ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

INDEX

Index.	i
Order of Dismissal.	1
Order Denying Reconsideration Motion.	4
Post-Trial Magistrate Court Return.	7
Reconsideration Motion and Coversheet.	32
Notice of Appeal (dated September 22, 2025).	34
Proof of Service for Notice of Appeal (dated September 23, 2025).	36
Notice of Appeal (filed in Calhoun County Court of Common Pleas on January 6, 2026).	37
Arrest Warrants.	39

CASE NO. 2025CP0900213

Shaneeeka Monet Stroman
PLAINTIFF(S)

State of South Carolina
DEFENDANT(S)

DISPOSITION TYPE (CHECK ONE)

- ☐ **JURY VERDICT.** This action came before the court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and a verdict rendered.
- ☒ **DECISION BY THE COURT.** This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered.
- ☐ **ACTION DISMISSED** (CHECK REASON): ☐ Rule 12(b), SCRCP; ☐ Rule 41(a), SCRCP (Vol. Nonsuit); ☐ Rule 43(k), SCRCP (Settled);
☐ Other
- ☐ **ACTION STRICKEN** (CHECK REASON): ☐ Rule 40(j), SCRCP; ☐ Bankruptcy;
☐ Binding arbitration, subject to right to restore to confirm, vacate or modify arbitration award;
☐ Other
- ☐ **STAYED DUE TO BANKRUPTCY**
- ☐ **DISPOSITION OF APPEAL TO THE CIRCUIT COURT** (CHECK APPLICABLE BOX):
☐ Affirmed; ☐ Reversed; ☐ Remanded;
☐ Other

NOTE: ATTORNEYS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING LOWER COURT, TRIBUNAL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY OF THE CIRCUIT COURT RULING IN THIS APPEAL.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED: ☐ See attached order (formal order to follow) ☒ Statement of Judgment by the Court:

Dismissed for Failure to Prosecute.

ORDER INFORMATION

This order ☒ ends ☐ does not end the case.

☐ See Page 2 for additional information.

For Clerk of Court Office Use Only

This judgment was electronically entered by the Clerk of Court as reflected on the Electronic Time Stamp, and a copy mailed first class to any party not proceeding in the Electronic Filing System on 12/10/2025 .

Shaneeeka Monet Stroman for Shaneeeka Monet Stroman
State of South Carolina for State of South Carolina
State of South Carolina for State of South Carolina
Shaneeeka Monet Stroman for Shaneeeka Monet Stroman

NAMES OF TRADITIONAL FILERS SERVED BY MAIL

Court Reporter:

E-Filing Note: The date of Entry of Judgment is the same date as reflected on the Electronic File Stamp and the clerk's entering of the date of judgment above is not required in those counties. The clerk will mail a copy of the judgment to parties who are not E-Filers or who are appearing pro se. See Rule 77(d), SCRCP.



Calhoun Common Pleas

Case Caption: Shaneeka Monet Stroman VS State of South Carolina

Case Number: 2025CP0900213

Type: Order/Electronic Form 4

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Heath P. Taylor

Shaneeeka Monet Stroman
PLAINTIFF(S)

State of South Carolina
DEFENDANT(S)

DISPOSITION TYPE (CHECK ONE)

- ☐ **JURY VERDICT.** This action came before the court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and a verdict rendered.
- ☒ **DECISION BY THE COURT.** This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered.
- ☐ **ACTION DISMISSED** (CHECK REASON): ☐ Rule 12(b), SCRPC; ☐ Rule 41(a), SCRPC (Vol. Nonsuit); ☐ Rule 43(k), SCRPC (Settled);
☐ Other
- ☐ **ACTION STRICKEN** (CHECK REASON): ☐ Rule 40(j), SCRPC; ☐ Bankruptcy;
☐ Binding arbitration, subject to right to restore to confirm, vacate or modify arbitration award;
☐ Other
- ☐ **STAYED DUE TO BANKRUPTCY**
- ☐ **DISPOSITION OF APPEAL TO THE CIRCUIT COURT** (CHECK APPLICABLE BOX):
☐ Affirmed; ☐ Reversed; ☐ Remanded;
☐ Other

NOTE: ATTORNEYS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING LOWER COURT, TRIBUNAL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY OF THE CIRCUIT COURT RULING IN THIS APPEAL.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED: ☐ See attached order (formal order to follow) ☒ Statement of Judgment by the Court:

The Motion to Reopen and Reconsider filed on December 18, 2025, is hereby denied.

ORDER INFORMATION

This order ☒ ends ☐ does not end the case.

☐ See Page 2 for additional information.

For Clerk of Court Office Use Only

This judgment was electronically entered by the Clerk of Court as reflected on the Electronic Time Stamp, and a copy mailed first class to any party not proceeding in the Electronic Filing System on 12/18/2025 .

Shaneeeka Monet Stroman for Shaneeeka Monet Stroman
State of South Carolina for State of South Carolina
State of South Carolina for State of South Carolina
Shaneeeka Monet Stroman for Shaneeeka Monet Stroman

NAMES OF TRADITIONAL FILERS SERVED BY MAIL

Court Reporter:

E-Filing Note: The date of Entry of Judgment is the same date as reflected on the Electronic File Stamp and the clerk's entering of the date of judgment above is not required in those counties. The clerk will mail a copy of the judgment to parties who are not E-Filers or who are appearing pro se. See Rule 77(d), SCRCP.



Calhoun Common Pleas

Case Caption: Shaneeka Monet Stroman VS State of South Carolina

Case Number: 2025CP0900213

Type: Order/Electronic Form 4

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Heath P. Taylor

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF CALHOUN)
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
Respondent-Appellee)
VS.)
SHANEEKA STROMAN)
Appellant-Defendant)

IN THE ST. MATTHEWS MAGISTRATE
COURT FOR CALHOUN COUNTY
Mag.Ct.Case No. 2024A0910100025, -26
Common Pleas Appeal No. 2025-CP-09-00213
MAGISTRATE COURT RETURN
FROM JURY TRIAL 9/22/2025

ON APPEAL TO THE CALHOUN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

The St. Matthews magistrate court submits this Return on Appellant Shaneeka Stroman's *pro se* appeal from a guilty verdict at jury trial held in this court on September 22, 2025, on the charges of Malicious Injury or Trespass to Real Property and Harassment-2nd degree.

GENERAL FACTUAL BACKGROUND.

Appellant's defense is that she is entitled to "Squatter's rights" and has the "right to occupy" any "abandoned premises" so that committing a "technical trespass" is not a violation of the law. Appellant and her partner Samuel Brown located a temporarily vacant home at [REDACTED], St. Matthews, Calhoun County. The elderly homeowner, Carol Fischer, had been admitted to the hospital and later to a medical rehabilitation facility. Her adult daughter, Emily Fischer-Bunker, had her mother's Power of Attorney because Fischer eventually suffered from dementia and was no longer able to live alone at home. Appellant and Brown occupied the home, changed the electrical utility account into Appellant's name, posted "No Trespass" signs, and other conduct to assert their claim to the premises. Appellant filed a civil case, *pro se*, in the Court of Common Pleas in Calhoun County against Fischer, the Town of St. Matthews, and others. The Calhoun County Sheriff Office after its investigation sought and were issued arrest warrants for Malicious Injury or Trespass to Real Property and Harassment-2nd degree. This court initially scheduled Appellant's jury trial for the March 2024 term but continued it at her request; then it was again continued from September 2024, due to Appellant's interlocutory appeal.

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND.

On February 8, 2024, Appellant was charged with Trespass against real property and Harassment-2nd degree, from an incident date on September 21, 2023. On February 8, 2024, Appellant appeared in Bond Court and was released on a P.R. Bond. On February 23, 2024, Appellant applied for and was approved for court appointed counsel, attorney Thomas Sims. On February 29, 2024, this court continued Appellant 's case from the March 2024 jury trial docket at Appellant's request due to her pending *pro se* civil case. *See Stroman v. Fischer et. al.*, 2023-CP-09-00171; and Court of Appeals Case No. 2024-000195].

On July 10, 2024, Appellant filed a *pro se* Motion to Dismiss the charges in this criminal case. On July 25, 2024, this court held a hearing with Appellant and her court-appointed attorney Thomas Sims. This court denied her Motion then issued a written Order dated July 26, 2024. This court set her jury trial selection date for September 13, 2024. Appellant then filed *pro se* interlocutory appeals of this court's denial of her Pre-Trial Motion. On August 1, 2024, Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal in the S.C. Court of Appeals. On August 5, 2024, Appellant filed the same Notice of Appeal in the Calhoun County Court of Common Pleas [Case No. 2024-CP-09-00151].

On August 5, 2024, Appellant filed a *pro se* Motion in this court asking to represent herself in the trial of this case. On August 9, 2024, this court held a hearing and granted Appellant's Motion for self-representation and issued a written Order finding that she knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waived her right to counsel. Appellant then informed this court of her Notice of Appeal from the pre-trial denial of her Motion to Dismiss, and provided this court with a copy. This court ceased any further hearings in this case and cancelled the jury trial scheduled for September 13, 2024 due to the interlocutory appeal. This court filed a timely Return of the magistrate court proceedings for Appellant's interlocutory appeal. The Circuit Court of Common Pleas dismissed Appellant's appeal as premature and interlocutory as did the S.C. Court of Appeals. On August 15, 2025, the S.C. Supreme Court denied certiorari, and the Court of Appeals issued a Remittitur to this court for trial.

At jury trial, CCSO was represented by Capt. Larry Vanicek and Cpl. Roger Carter. Appellant represented herself *pro se*, based on her assertion of her right to self-representation and this court's Order dated August 12, 2024. On September 19, 2025, this court conducted jury qualification and selection in Appellant's case. On September 22,

2025, the court held a jury trial. The jury rendered a verdict of Guilty as to both counts. The court sentenced the Appellant to thirty (30) days on each count, consecutive, for a total of sixty (60) days. On September 26, 2025, Appellant filed a timely Notice of Intent to Appeal.

JURY QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION on September 19, 2025.

The court qualified the jury panel. Appellant was present for the entire proceeding. The court informed Appellant she had six (6) peremptory challenges for the jury panel, and one (1) peremptory challenge for each of the two (2) alternate jurors, per S.C. Code Ann. §22-2-100.

Appellant's Objection at Jury Selection.

Appellant exhausted her six peremptory challenges and then objected to the three remaining jurors as seated.

At the beginning of jury selection, Appellant informed the court that she "had selected her jurors" from among the entire panel. Appellant was under the misapprehension that she got to randomly pick which jurors she wanted for her trial among the forty-plus jurors who were qualified. The court explained the jurors' names would be called one at a time, and further explained the right of the State and then Appellant to either seat the juror or exercise a peremptory challenge. Appellant was informed she had six (6) peremptory "strikes" only, then one for each of two alternates. Appellant was provided a copy of her jury panel and the sequence in which they would be called.

After Appellant exhausted her six challenges, and three jurors had been seated, she then asked to excuse the fourth, fifth, and sixth jurors to complete the panel of six. When asked for her challenge as to cause for the fourth juror to be seated, Appellant said, "I prefer my peers." The court denied the objection as all the prospective jurors had been properly qualified pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §14-7-810 et.seq., and the juror was seated. When asked for her challenge as to cause for the fifth juror to be seated, Appellant said, "May I ask the juror a question?" The court denied the request, Appellant did not tell the court what question she wanted to ask, and there was no challenge for cause given. The fifth juror was seated. As to the sixth and final juror to be seated, Appellant had no response when the court asked for a challenge for cause. The juror was seated and the panel of six jurors completed. Additionally, Appellant had an objection as to one of the alternates after exhausting her peremptory challenges; but the alternate was excused at the end of the trial and so did not participate in jury deliberations or verdict.

JURY TRIAL on September 22, 2025, at 9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.

The State appeared through the Calhoun County Sheriff Office (CCSO) and was represented by Cpl. Roger Carter, who investigated and initiated the charges, and Capt. Larry Vanicek, a senior Deputy with CCSO. Appellant represented herself and did not want appointment of counsel. *See* Order dated August 12, 2024.

COURT BEGAN at 9:00a.m. JURORS INSTRUCTED TO REPORT TO THE JURY ROOM.

The jurors were sequestered in the jury room during the following pre-trial proceedings.

Appellant's Pre-Trial Motions.

The court provided Appellant a copy of her Motions list dated August 24, 2024, and never ruled upon by this court due to the interlocutory appeal. Appellant referred to this list and made additional oral Motions, for a total of twenty-six (26) Motions to Dismiss on the following grounds: (1) Special Appearance vs. General Appearance; (2) Jurisdiction; (3) Lack of personal knowledge; (4) Color of title; (5) Subject matter jurisdiction; (6) Continue or dismiss until conclusion of Appellant's *pro se* civil suit in the S.C. Court of Appeals; (7) Witness Fischer-Bunker was not a properly named victim; (8) S.C. Code §15-67-100 (right to jury trial to recover possession of real estate); (9) *Brady v. Maryland*; (10) Continue this trial due to pending Common Pleas civil suit; (11) §15-67-10 (bringing adverse claim to possession of real property); (12) Lack of legal authority because Fischer-Bunker is not the property owner; (13) Dismiss because Appellant does not know Fischer-Bunker and had no dealings with her; (14) Illegality of the wrongful ejectment of Appellant from the premises; (15) Illegality of wrongful ejectment of Appellant as a Tenant-At-Will; (16) No Rule to Vacate issued; (17) §15-67-420 (right to treble damages in realty actions); (18) §22-3-750 (warrant against corporations violating criminal statutes); (19) §22-3-1360 (civil claim and delivery statute for recovery of personal property); (20) "Betterment" statute of §15-67-230 (improvements to real property as part of adverse possession claim); (21) Invalid Power of Attorney with Fischer-Bunker; (22) Stay because pending civil suit in Court of Appeals; (23) Squatter's Rights; (24) Failure to state a claim by the State; (25) Lack of reasonable cause; and (26) Lis Pendens filed by Appellant against the property.

The court denied all of the Motions as meritless having no basis in law as to the charges herein. The court made additional rulings denying same as to specific Motions as follows:

(2) Jurisdiction; and (5) Subject matter jurisdiction. Appellant argued the Calhoun County Sheriff Office did not have jurisdiction to bring the charge because the alleged offense occurred in the Town of St. Matthews so the Town Police Dept. was required to bring the charge. The court denied the Motion because the Sheriff's Office has county-wide jurisdiction; and this court had proper jurisdiction of offenses occurring in Calhoun County and within this court's jurisdiction.

(6) Continue or dismiss until conclusion of Appellant's *pro se* civil suit pending in the S.C. Court of Appeals, and (22) Stay because pending civil suit in Court of Appeals. The court denied a request to stay this jury trial. Two prior stays had occurred already during jury terms of March 2024 and September 2024; the appellate case has lingered much longer than anticipated due to repeated extensions by Appellant with the Court of Appeals; and by Appellant's improper interlocutory appeal.

(9) *Brady v. Maryland*. CCSO affirmed on the record in this court on September 5, 2024, that all discovery had been provided to Appellant. CCSO affirmed this again in court on this trial date. Appellant did not name any sort of prejudice or other specific information that she was requesting.

(14) Illegality of the wrongful ejectment of Appellant from the premises; (15) Illegality of wrongful ejectment of Appellant as a Tenant-At-Will; and (16) No Rule to Vacate issued. There was no evidence, and Appellant made no showing that she was a tenant with rights under the RLTA (Residential Landlord-Tenant Act, §27-40-10 thru §27-40-930); nor a Tenant-At-Will with any other more limited rights, per §27-35-130 et.seq. So no ejectment or Rule To Vacate was required.

The State's Exhibits Admitted as Evidence.

The State offered four Exhibits, admitted without objection: (1) Dominion Energy utility account, St.Ex.#1; (2) CAD report, St.Ex.#2; (3) Deed of Title in name of Carol (Benoit) Fischer, St.Ex.#3; and (4) St. Matthews Police Dept. Notice of Trespass, St.Ex.#4. The State also offered the printed transcript of the Common Pleas Circuit Court hearing in Appellant's civil suit where Appellant made certain admissions, St.Ex.#7. Appellant objected to St.Ex.#7 as an exhibit in evidence. The court sustained Appellant's objection and did not allow the printed transcript to go to the jury; however, the State was allowed to have witnesses read admissions or statements

by Appellant which she made in the civil hearing. Rule 801(d)(2) and 804(b)(1) and (b)(3), SCRE. Appellant made no objection to this ruling regarding admission of Appellant's actual statements; Appellant only objected to the printed transcript being entered into evidence which the court sustained. St.Ex.#7 [ID only; Not admitted]. The court made a finding that at the time Appellant made the potentially incriminating statements she was not in custody and made the statements in open court under oath to the presiding Circuit Court Judge in her *pro se* civil lawsuit in Common Pleas against the Town of St. Matthews, Emily Fischer-Bunker, and others.

State's Pre-Trial Objection to Appellant's alleged defense of "Squatter's rights."

The State made a Motion to disallow Appellant from cross-examining the State's witnesses or introducing evidence or testimony in Appellant's case of her claim to "Squatter's rights." The court heard argument from both the State and Appellant. The court granted the State's Motion over Appellant's objection.

The court instructed Appellant she would not be allowed to cross-examine witnesses, or introduce testimony or evidence in her case if she chose to present evidence, which involved claims of "squatter's rights" as a defense. The proposed lay witnesses were not qualified to answer questions of law about squatter's rights, claims of the "right to occupy," or adverse possession. The court ruled that Appellant could ask fact-based questions, but not about the witness' opinions or knowledge of squatter's rights, color of title, or adverse possession.

The court made its ruling per Rules 401, 403, 602, 701, SCRE. The court also conducted a balancing test on the record per R.403 that such questioning would lead to confusion of the issues for the jury; and were more prejudicial than probative because Appellant's assertions were actual misstatements of law. However, the court ruled that if Appellant chose to testify – and the court would review her rights with her at the appropriate time – then the court would give her great leeway to testify to whatever she wanted to as such testimony would go to her state of mind and intent; and the burden of proof was on the State to prove criminal intent beyond a reasonable doubt, including "malicious" intent as to the Malicious Injury or Trespass to Real Property offense. Appellant's proposed exhibits were marked but not yet admitted due to the court's concerns per Rules 401 and 403, SCRE.

JURY IN at 9:50A.M.

The jurors were brought into the courtroom for trial. The court administered an oath to the jurors.

Opening Statements.

The State and Appellant gave opening statements as to their respective positions and what they intended to show the jury. Appellant made no objections to the State's opening. During Appellant's opening, she told the jury that she tried to get her charges dismissed with various motions. The State objected and the court sustained the objection. The court ruled that Appellant's pre-trial motions and the court's rulings were not proper for the jury's consideration as the rulings were based on the court's interpretation of the law. Appellant also asked the court during her opening if she could show the jury a "document" which the court denied as whatever document Appellant had in her hand was not yet in evidence.

All witnesses who testified were placed under oath or affirmation as they were called to the witness stand.

State's Case and Evidence.

The State presented four (4) witnesses and four (4) Exhibits. Appellant cross-examined each witness. The State's witnesses were: Chief Michael Smalls of the St. Matthews Police Dept.; Emily Fischer-Bunker; Kathy Rhoden of Dominion Energy; and Cpl. Roger Carter, CCSO.

Michael Smalls, Jr., Chief of Police for the Town of St. Matthews Police Dept.

Chief Smalls testified that he was the Chief of Police for the Town and had been in law enforcement for 37 years. He testified that Appellant asked him in 2023 if the property at [REDACTED], St. Matthews, was for sale. He told her she would need to contact a realtor. The Chief testified he was aware that the resident of [REDACTED] was an elderly lady who was either hospitalized or staying with her adult daughter.

He reviewed the CAD report (Call Detail Report) for September 23, 2023. St.Ex.#2 (Admitted without objection). The reason for the 911 call was a trespassing at [REDACTED]. Capt. Britt of the St. Matthews Pol.Dept. responded to that call. Appellant was found on the property. A complaint had been made by Fischer-Bukner, the adult daughter of Carol Fischer about Appellant being on the property, and that Appellant had been "putting up 'No Trespass' signs" and she was not supposed to be there. Capt. Britt did not make an arrest and apparently informed the parties that it was a civil matter.

Chief Smalls reviewed police incident reports to refresh his memory, dated September 23 and 26, 2023. St.Ex.#5, 6 [ID only; Not admitted]. On September 26, 2023, the Chief went to the property on another trespass call. The Chief knew from a prior meeting with Fischer-Bunker that she was the adult daughter of Fischer and Fischer owned [REDACTED]. He knew the home was not abandoned, that Fischer was ill and not living at the home. The Chief was aware Appellant had been on the property putting up "No Trespass" signs and trying to claim the property as her own. He found Appellant at the premises with Samuel Brown. Appellant complained to the Chief that some items she had left at the premises had been stolen and wanted to file a larceny report. Chief Smalls placed Appellant and Brown on "No Trespass" written notice. St.Ex.#4 (Admitted without objection).

There were no objections to Chief Smalls' direct testimony.

Cross-Examination of Smalls.

Appellant asked Chief Smalls several questions about [REDACTED] being "abandoned," and he replied that it was not abandoned. Appellant attempted to show him Def.Ex.#1 but it was not admitted at this time because the witness had no knowledge of the document. Appellant asked the Chief did he not give her permission to be at the premises. He denied ever saying that and stated that he did not tell her that. The Chief answered that he told Appellant that nobody currently lived in the house because the person was in the hospital and later with her adult daughter. He stated several times he never gave Appellant permission to go into the house.

Appellant asked the Chief if the house had been vacant for ten years, and he stated no. Appellant then started directly talking to the jury. The State objected and the court sustained the objection and informed Appellant she could not talk to the jury during questioning of witnesses.

Appellant questioned Chief Smalls about the CAD report. St.Ex.#2. Appellant asked the name of the 911 caller, a neighbor of Fischer. Appellant asked that the Dispatcher who received the call entered on the CAD report "This is a civil matter." After several questions, the State objected as to "Asked and Answered." The court denied the objection and allowed Appellant to ask the questions. Appellant then showed Chief Smalls the written "No Trespass" notice he had given her. St.Ex.#4. Appellant asked questions about it and the Chief answered that he gave her the "No Trespass" notice and told her she could leave or be arrested, and that she left after five minutes.

Appellant asked Chief Smalls about "adverse possession." The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on its pre-trial ruling.

Re-Direct of Smalls.

The State asked Chief Smalls if he or any of his employees were experts in civil law, and he responded that he and his Police Officers were not experts at civil law.

Emily Fischer-Bunker.

Fischer-Bunker testified she is the daughter of Carol Fischer. The real estate title to the property shows that Fischer owned [REDACTED]. St.Ex.#3. [Admitted without objection]. Fischer-Bunker testified that her mother had been in a memory-care facility due to dementia. At the time of the incident, Fischer had Power of Attorney (POA) over her mother's affairs and property. Fischer-Bunker received a call from a neighbor sometime in September 2023 that someone was on the property and doing things there. She went to the St. Matthews Police Dept. the next day to file a complaint because no one should be on the property. She refreshed her memory with the St. Matthews Pol. Dept. Incident Reports. St.Ex.#5, 6 [ID only; Not admitted]. Fischer-Bunker testified that someone had entered into the home without permission and onto the property. Changes had been made to the outdoor premises, including the bushes had been cut down. Fischer-Bunker maintained the utility accounts of water and electric and paid them on time.

Fischer-Bunker testified she attended a civil court hearing involving Appellant. Fischer-Bunker read from the transcript of the November 30, 2023, civil hearing in a *pro se* lawsuit brought by Defendant Stroman against Fischer and others, as to statements Appellant made at the hearing under oath. ST.Ex.#7 [ID Only; Not admitted]. Appellant made no objection to her own statements being read to the jury. The witness read as follows:

"Just to prove the good faith part of entering the property, St. Matthews police was called out and

I will swear on this, I will put my right hand up, if need be."

St.Ex.#7 [ID only] at p.19, ll. 18-21.

Stroman is sworn under oath in the civil hearing.

St.Ex.#7 [ID only] at p.19, ll. 22-25.

“And so I said, well, is it okay for me to go in? And do, you know, I just want to clarify that I’m not a criminal. I admit no, you know, I didn’t try to go in, you know without consent.”

St.Ex.#7 [ID only] at p.20, ll. 22-25.

“So with that being said, that’s how I ended up entering the premises.”

ST.Ex.#7 [ID only] at p.21, ll. 9-10.

“He wrote me a report, okay, for larceny. He did write me a report. I have that report here for documentation. Upon that report, he had given me a report. And this report was from Emily Fischer-Bunker. Okay. I am aware I was trespassing. Okay, Your Honor. I know Carol B. Fischer is the owner. And I also am aware that I was trespassing. And she – I don’t know Carol B. Fischer and Carol B Fischer doesn’t know me.”

St.Ex.#7 [ID only] at p.25, ll. 20—25; p.26, ll. 1-4.

No objections were made to any of the readings of Defendant’s statements from the civil hearing transcript.

Fischer-Bunker testified that Appellant kept turning the power off and putting it in her (Appellant’s) name with Dominion Energy (“D.E.”). Fischer-Bunker had to contact Dominion Energy at least three times to return the electric account into her (Fischer-Bunker’s) name. Fischer-Bunker testified this was very stressful and caused her much anxiety because she was caring for her mother with dementia at the time and dealing with Appellant’s continuing attempts to put the utility accounts in her (Appellant’s) name. Fischer-Bunker had to move her mother from the memory-care facility into a more structured and supervised facility due to her mother’s degenerating condition. Fischer-Bunker became tearful during her testimony. She testified that her mother passed away in January 2024, and that the property at [REDACTED] was sold.

There were no objections by Appellant during Fischer-Bunker’s direct testimony.

Cross-Examination of Fischer-Bunker.

Appellant asked Fischer-Bunker if she (Fischer-Bunker) lived at [REDACTED], and she replied that she did not. Appellant asked if the POA was invalid, and she replied it was valid and had been prepared by an attorney. Appellant showed Fischer-Bunker the Dominion Energy report. St.Ex.# 1 (Admitted without objection).

Appellant showed where an entry had been made by a D.E. employee of an “invalid POA.” Fischer-Bunker replied that D.E. asked for a copy of the POA with the Clerk of Court’s Seal to verify it had been filed at the courthouse. Appellant asked several times that the POA was invalid. The State objected and the court sustained the objection as the witness had already answered the question multiple times.

Appellant asked Fischer-Bunker if she received mail at [REDACTED], and she answered she did not. Appellant asked if Fischer-Bunker had her mother’s mail forwarded, and she answered she did not. The State objected and the court overruled the objection allowing Appellant’s questions. Appellant showed Fischer-Bunker Def.Ex.#2 and the State objected. The court sustained because the document had not yet been properly identified or admitted. Appellant asked if anyone was using Fischer’s home. The State objected and the court overruled the objection and allowed the question. Fischer-Bunker replied that it was her mother’s residence, all her possessions were still there, and her mother’s absence didn’t give anyone the right to have access to the home or property.

Appellant asked if Appellant had ever been to Fischer-Bunker’s residence, or attempted to call her, and Fischer-Bunker replied no. Appellant asked then how did Appellant harass her (Fischer-Bunker), and she answered that through Appellant’s constant changing the electric account at Dominion Energy into Appellant’s name, and changes Appellant made at the premises such as cutting hedges.

Appellant asked if Fischer-Bunker was aware that Appellant had a legal right to change the utility accounts into Appellant’s name based on adverse possession. The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on the court’s pre-trial ruling. Appellant asked Fischer-Bunker if this case was a civil matter. The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on its pre-trial ruling. Appellant showed Fischer-Bunker a document Appellant had made as a “Public Notice,” DEF.Ex.#5 [ID only; Not admitted], to claim the premises. The State objected and the court sustained the objection because the document had not been properly identified or admitted.

Appellant asked Fischer-Bunker how long her mother had been absent from the home, and she answered for 4 years from 2019 – 2023. Appellant asked if Fischer-Bunker left the house unlocked. The State objected but the court overruled and allowed the question. Fischer-Bunker replied that she had everything locked. Appellant asked if Fischer-Bunker mowed the yard, and she replied she would arrange for it to be mowed about every other

month or more often when needed. Appellant asked if Fischer-Bunker was aware Appellant had some personal property there, and she answered that she knew Appellant had put some stuff on the porch.

Appellant asked that when Appellant changed the lights (electric account) into Appellant's name if Fischer-Bunker knew this was Appellant's "right to self-help." The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on its pre-trial ruling. Appellant asked the same question twice more in different ways using the "self-help" phrase and the court sustained the State's objection each time for the same reason.

Appellant asked again about the "invalid" POA. The State objected and the court sustained the objection as Asked and Answered multiple times. Appellant asked if Fischer-Bunker was aware that when someone "is in possession" that it is a crime to try to have them evicted. The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on its pre-trial ruling. Appellant asked Fischer-Bunker if she was aware that Appellant was a "lawful occupant." The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on its pre-trial ruling. Appellant attempted to show Fischer-Bunker "my document of adverse possession." The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on its pre-trial ruling, and the document had not been identified or admitted.

Re-Direct of Emily Fischer-Bunker.

The State asked a few questions about the POA. Fischer-Bunker answered that D.E. wanted the Clerk of Court's Seal on the POA to verify it had been properly filed with the Clerk of Court. This was after the electric account had been changed back and forth so D.E. was confirming who had legitimate authority over the account. Fischer-Bunker testified she had a complete and full Durable POA and Medical-POA for her mother.

Re-Cross of Emily Fischer-Bunker.

Appellant asked if Fischer-Bunker did not live at [REDACTED], and she replied that she did not and that the owner was her mother, and she (Fischer-Bunker) was responsible for her mother's property and affairs.

Kathy Rhoden, Dominion Energy.

She is employed by D.E. in Litigation Services and Records Custodian. She reviewed the D.E. utility report for [REDACTED]. St.Ex.#1 (Admitted without objection). She testified that the records showed the following. On September 21, 2023, Appellant changed the utility account to her (Appellant's) name. On September 29, 2023,

Fischer-Bunker changed it back to her (Fischer-Bunker's) name. On November 22, 2023, Appellant again changed it into her name. Then Fischer-Bunker changed it back again later on the same date. There was a third attempt by Appellant to change the electric account but it was not approved.

On November 21, 2023, a D.E. employee requested a copy of the deed to the [REDACTED] property. The deed that had been submitted by Appellant did not look proper because it appeared to have been altered. She testified that the entry of "invalid POA" on the D.E. report was made because Fischer-Bunker's POA did not have the Clerk of Court's Seal on it. She testified that the D.E. employee was requesting a copy of the POA with the Clerk of Court's Seal.

On October 31, 2023, a D.E. employee entered that Appellant was a "squatter" and that Fischer-Bunker had a valid POA. Fischer-Bunker also submitted to D.E. a valid deed to the property.

There was no objection to Rhoden's direct testimony.

Cross-Examination of Rhoden.

A Dominion Energy employee made an entry that this appeared to be a "family dispute." An account can be opened by anyone with a valid name, SSN, DOB, and verifiable address. Appellant asked if the witness knew about "color of title" claims. The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on its pre-trial ruling.

Re-Direct of Rhodan.

The State asked what documents Appellant initially submitted to get the electric account changed into her (Appellant's) name. Rhodan answered it was Appellant's name, driver's license, DOB, and SSN.

JURY OUT at 11:40a.m.

The court recessed for a break. The jury was sent to their jury room and instructed not to discuss the case as they had not heard all the evidence or the court's instructions on the law.

JURY IN at 11:55a.m.

Cpl. Roger Carter, CCSO.

Carter testified that he was with Investigations in the Sheriff's Dept. for four years, but now is in charge of Training. He received the complaint from Fischer-Bunker as to Appellant trespassing and changing the electric

account. CCSO was asked to handle the criminal investigation because Appellant had a pending civil lawsuit in the Court of Common Pleas against the St. Matthews Police Dept. As part of his investigation, Carter obtained a Search Warrant for the Dominion Energy records of the premises at [REDACTED], in Calhoun County. From his investigation he estimated that Appellant had been on the property multiple times beginning at least around September 21, 2023. He testified that Fischer-Bunker seemed overwhelmed and very much in mental distress and anguish over Appellant's acts while caring for her (Fischer-Bunker's) mother at the same time. Carter verified that the property was legally owned by Fischer-Bunker's mother, Carol Fischer and not Appellant. Carter reviewed the Dominion Energy records, the CAD reports, the Power of Attorney, Deed to the property, interviewed the available witnesses, and made the decision to seek charges against the Appellant.

Carter later obtained a transcript of Appellant's *pro se* civil hearing in Common Pleas court where she made statements under oath that the property wasn't hers and she knew she was trespassing. Carter's investigation showed that Appellant's conduct constituted harassment because there were two or more acts with the changing of the electricity account three times, the acts caused distress to the victim Fischer-Bunker, and that Appellant knew it was not her property and that she was trespassing.

There were no objections to Carter's testimony.

Cross-Examination of Carter.

Appellant asked Carter if he ever arrested her at the premises of [REDACTED] or ever see her there, and he answered no. She asked if it was only hearsay that she was seen on the premises. The State objected and the court sustained because her use of the word "hearsay" had a legal meaning which may confuse the jury. Rule 403, SCREvid. Appellant asked Carter multiple questions about his legal knowledge or research of "adverse possession" and the "right to occupy." The State objected and the court sustained based on its pre-trial ruling.

Appellant asked Carter if he was aware the house was unlocked, and he answered that per his information the house was locked. Defendant asked where she was located when Carter obtained the arrest warrant. Carter answered that he obtained the arrest warrant, then called her by phone and she turned herself in. Carter acknowledged he never personally witnessed Appellant on the premises but that others had.

Appellant asked Carter about the POA filed with Dominion Energy, St.Ex.#1 at p. 12. Carter responded that Dominion Energy wanted a copy of the POA with the Clerk of Court's official seal to verify it was authentic. Carter testified that Fischer was the owner of the property and that Fischer-Bunker was her daughter with a valid POA. Appellant again asked Carter about of "adverse possession" and the "right to occupy," and if this case wasn't just civil and not criminal. The State objected and the court sustained the objections based on its pre-trial ruling.

Appellant asked Carter if he ever interviewed Fischer, and he answered no because she had dementia. Appellant asked Carter if she (Appellant) was fingerprinted after her arrest, and he answered yes, that all defendants are fingerprinted.

Re-Direct of Carter.

Carter testified that he rarely saw a suspect committing the act charged because he was in Investigations. He followed up after the complaint to interview witnesses and gather evidence.

The State rested.

Jurors were instructed not to discuss the case because they may not have heard all the evidence or instructions on the law from the court.

JURY OUT at 12:15p.m.

Directed verdict.

The court took up the matter of a Directed Verdict Motion, *sua sponte*. The court made a finding that there was sufficient evidence for the jury to make the decision, and denied a motion for a directed verdict.

Defendant's Request for Witnesses.

The court took up the issue of Appellant's witness subpoenas. The Appellant had requested prior to trial and the court had issued, subpoenas for the following: Chief Michael Smalls; Emily Fischer-Bunker, former Calhoun County Clerk of Court Lakeisha Moorere; Asst. Clerk of Court Mark Popenhagen (Deeds Clerk); Calhoun County Sheriff Thomas Summers, Town of St. Matthews Mayor Helen Carson-Peterson; CCSO Capt. Stanley Graham; Attorneys Martin Banks and Allen Neumeister; and Jesus Serrano Gallego & Francisca Martinez Morales, the new and current owners of [REDACTED]

The court noted that Smalls and Fischer-Bunker had already testified and been released without objection, but Fischer-Bunker remained in the courtroom. The court asked Appellant if she wanted them recalled, and she did not. Because of concerns over the relevance of some of the other witnesses as named by Appellant, the court held a hearing outside the jury's presence to determine if the witnesses had any factual knowledge and relevant testimony. Three witnesses were actually called, placed under oath, and a proffer made of their testimony.

Lakeisha Moorer – Appellant's Proffer of testimony with the Witness.

Moorer is the former Clerk of Court for Calhoun County. Appellant asked Moorer a few questions to verify that Appellant had filed a *pro se* document with the Clerk of Court's Office. Def.Ex.#1 (not yet admitted). Moorer confirmed that Appellant had filed the document and it had been witnessed and notarized. The court ruled in Appellant's favor that she could call Moorer. The State offered this Stipulation: Moorer as the then-Deputy Clerk of Court clocked-in Appellant's *pro se* document with the date and time, and witnessed and notarized Appellant's signature on the document; and the document would be admitted without objection. Def.Ex.#3. Appellant agreed to the Stipulation, stated she did not need Moorer as a witness, and the Stipulation was later read to the jury.

Mark Popenhagen – Appellant's Proffer of testimony with the Witness.

Popenhagen is an Asst. Clerk of Court for Calhoun County and works in the deeds office. Appellant asked Popenhagen several questions, but his response was that her *pro se* document did not make it an official deed for the Records Office. The court ruled in Appellant's favor that she could call Popenhagen, but she chose not to.

Sheriff Thomas Summers – Appellant's Proffer of testimony with the Witness.

Appellant asked questions of Summers about a conversation she had with him at his office about his jurisdiction over Chief Smalls and his lack of jurisdiction within the Town limits because [REDACTED] was in the Town. The Sheriff replied that he had county-wide jurisdiction in Calhoun County so it did not matter if the case was being led and prosecuted by the Sheriff's Office instead of the Town Police. Sheriff Summers said he did not have authority to tell Chief Smalls how to handle a specific case with the Town of St. Matthews Police Department. Appellant also asked the Sheriff about her demand that the Sheriff "lock up Chief Smalls." The Sheriff responded that he would not lock-up Chief Smalls.

The court ruled that Appellant's conversation with the Sheriff was not relevant to any issues in the case, nor bearing upon Appellant's defenses, and would lead to a confusion of the issues with the jury. Rules 401, 403, SCREvid. The court made a balancing test on the record and determined that the proposed testimony was more prejudicial than probative. As a legal matter, the Sheriff has county-wide jurisdiction and can investigate and pursue incidents that occur within the Town limits. The Appellant's argument that the Sheriff's Office lacked jurisdiction to arrest and prosecute her for an offense because it occurred in the Town, is without merit and was already ruled upon in Appellant's pre-trial Motions. The court also ruled that the Sheriff's refusal to lock-up Chief Smalls at Appellant's request was not relevant to any issues or Appellant's defenses. Thus, the court denied Appellant's request to call Sheriff Summers as a witness.

Based upon the above proffers of witness testimony and the various irrelevant tangents of such testimony, the court then asked Appellant the purpose of the remaining witnesses on her witness list before they could be called in front of the jury as witnesses. Appellant made the following proffers without the witnesses present.

Helen Carson-Peterson – Proffer of testimony by Appellant.

Appellant wanted the Mayor of the Town of St. Matthews to testify that the Town refused to change the water utility account from Fischer's name into Appellant's name, just as Appellant had done with the electric account. Appellant stated she did not know if Carson-Peterson had actual knowledge of the Town's refusal and that it was a decision made by a Town employee at the Town Hall where water accounts were established, recorded, and paid. Appellant did not have the name of the Town employee who refused the transfer of the water account. The court denied Appellant's motion to have Carson-Peterson testify since there was no showing that the Mayor had any knowledge of the water account.

CCSO Capt. Stanley Graham – Proffer of testimony by Appellant.

Appellant wanted Capt. Graham to testify because he had attempted to serve Fischer with Appellant's *pro se* civil lawsuit. Capt. Graham was unable to serve Fischer at [REDACTED], and he wrote on the Affidavit of Service that the house was "abandoned." DEF.Ex.#1 [ID only; Not admitted]. The court ruled that Graham's potential testimony was not relevant to any issues in the case nor bearing upon Appellant's defenses, because

Graham's note was a conclusion and did not appear to have any basis in actual knowledge. The court also ruled it would lead to a confusion of the issues with the jury. Rule 403, SCREvid. The court made a balancing test on the records and determined that the proposed testimony was more prejudicial than probative, for the reasons set forth above. Furthermore, Graham resides in Berkeley County, so outside of Calhoun County, and is currently on medical leave in Richland County. Thus, the court's subpoena power does not extend to persons who reside outside of Calhoun County. S.C. Code §22-3-930.

Martin Banks and Allen Neumeister – Proffer of testimony by Appellant.

Appellant wanted to call these attorneys of the Banks-Neumeister law firm because they represented Fischer-Bunker in the *pro se* civil lawsuit in Circuit Court of Common Pleas. Appellant wanted to ask them what they talked about with their client and the other Defendants in her civil suit. The court denied Appellant's motion to call them as witnesses because: They were residents outside of Calhoun County and beyond the subpoena power of the court per S.C. Code §22-3-930; and (b) Any communications were likely protected by the attorney-client privilege and/or work product.

Jesus Serrano Gallego & Francisca Martinez Morales.

These are the persons who purchased the home at [REDACTED] after Fischer died and the property was sold through Probate Court. Appellant was unable to provide what relevant testimony they might provide. The Calhoun County Sheriff's Office was unable to locate these persons at [REDACTED] so they were unable to be served with a subpoena.

Appellant's Right to Testify or Not Testify.

The court questioned Appellant as to whether she wanted to testify or not testify. The court informed Appellant of her right to testify or not testify. The court informed Appellant that if she testified she could be cross-examined. The court informed Appellant that if she chose not to testify, that the court would instruct the jury they could not hold it against her, could not consider it at all nor even discuss it in the jury room. Appellant stated she was not sure though she may elect to not testify, and asked for the lunch recess to consider it which the court granted.

The court recessed for lunch at 12:45p.m. Lunch was provided for the jurors.

After the recess, Appellant informed the court that she did want to testify. The court again informed her of her right to testify or not testify, and Appellant reaffirmed her right to testify.

JURY IN. 1:35P.M.

The following Stipulation was read to the jurors and Appellant's *pro se* document was admitted into evidence without objection. DEF.Ex.#3 (Admitted). Stipulation: Lakeisha Moorner was the Deputy Clerk of Court at the time Appellant filed her hand-written document; The document was clocked-in at the Clerk of Court's Office with the date and time; Appellant's signature was witnessed and notarized.

DEFENDANT's Case

Samuel Brown.

Brown identified himself as Appellant's "common law" husband. He had contact with Chief Smalls who told Brown "No crime was being committed here," and that "It's over" with the service of the No Trespass notice. St.Ex.#4. Brown testified that Chief Smalls told him that "I would love to see a person in that home."

Brown testified that the home was not occupied and that it was "open." He testified that he and Appellant had been on the property "occupying" it since June 2023, and so had been there about 2 – 3 months. Brown and Appellant did not have any contact or communication with Fischer-Bunker because she was not the owner of the property. After Chief Smalls told them to leave they did not go back.

Appellant attempted to ask Brown questions about "adverse possession." The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on the court's pre-trial ruling. Appellant asked Brown if a Rule To Vacate (RTV) had been filed against them. The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on the court's pre-trial ruling. Brown testified they left a lawnmower and personal belongings at the premises.

Appellant asked if they had transferred or conveyed the property to themselves. The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on the court's pre-trial ruling. Appellant asked if this case was more civil than criminal. The State objected and the court sustained the objection because it called for a legal opinion from

the witness. Appellant asked if Brown had ever had “color of title” to real property. The State objected and the court sustained the objection based on the court’s pre-trial ruling.

Cross-Examination of Brown.

Brown admitted he had been on the property since June 2023. He admitted he had been inside the house and that he just walked in because the house was unlocked. Brown testified that no one lived in the house. Brown testified he and Appellant audio-recorded their conversation with Chief Smalls but didn’t have the audio for court. Brown testified they never went back to the property after Chief Smalls gave them the written No Trespass notice.

Brown stated he and Appellant went to the main courthouse to the Register of Deeds and to Probate Court to determine if anyone had ownership of the property. Brown was asked about Appellant’s admissions in the transcript of the civil Common Pleas Court hearing. Appellant objected that it was a requirement to have a written notice of trespass. The court overruled the objection as having no legal basis because the statute under which Appellant is charged does not have “notice” as an element of the offense; thus, Appellant’s objection was an incorrect statement of the law as to the statute she was charged with in this case. Brown was asked if he had anyone’s knowledge or permission to go into the house and he answered no.

Re-Direct of Brown.

Brown testified that their U.S. Mail to Fischer had been returned about five times in their attempt to contact her to give her notice of their claim to the property. Brown testified they published a notice of Appellant’s civil suit and their claim of possession of the property in a newspaper and no one ever responded.

JURY OUT at 2:00p.m.

Appellant informed the court that she had no other witnesses and that she did want to testify.

JURY IN at 2:05P.M.

Shaneeeka Stroman, Appellant.

Appellant testified that there was nothing criminal about this case and that it was a civil claim of hers. Appellant stated she was in the continuous process of possessing the property at [REDACTED]. She stated her

intent was to occupy the premises so as to claim it as her own. She stated she did admit to a trespass but it was a civil trespass to occupy the premises. She recorded her claim in the Register of Deeds. DEF.Ex.#3 [admitted].

Appellant testified she was in the process of occupying the premises for a period of ten years. She stated she was interrupted in her possession but that her claim was civil in nature. Her continuous occupation was not properly interrupted with a Rule To Show Cause. She objected to any forced removal. She stated her document was a legal document. The State objected but the court overruled, allowing Appellant to present her case and defense. She stated that she did file her claim of her rights to possess the property under the law. She stated that South Carolina acknowledges "squatter's rights."

Appellant testified that the doors and window shutters were wide open. She stated that if she left the light bill in Fischer's name then that would be stealing by using Fischer's electricity. She stated that her document, DEF.Ex.#3, makes her have an interest in the home. She stated that when you occupy property then you can transfer the lights into your name. She stated she tried to do everything right by the law and not be a criminal.

She testified that she did not know either Fischer or Fischer-Bunker and that those two women were never there at the property. She stated that these were not proper criminal charges against her. She stated she filed her affidavit document with the Clerk of Court. She stated she read Fischer's obituary and that Fischer was the type of person to give you the shirt off her back and she would want Appellant to have the property. The State objected and the court overruled the objection.

Appellant testified she tried to show Investigator Carter her document that she filed with the Clerk of Court but that he did not want to see it. She stated Carter never saw her on the property. She stated that "squatting" to claim a property requires some trespass and that this is about "color of title." She repeated several times that it is a civil matter, not criminal.

Cross-Examination of Shaneeka Stroman, Appellant.

Appellant admitted she did not know the owner of the home. She stated that she met Chief Smalls just one day and he told her that the owner of the home was not capable. She admitted she entered the home without permission, but that it was vacant and abandoned. She testified that she filed her document of "Notice of Adverse

Possession Claim Affidavit” with the Clerk of Court on June 14, 2023. DefF.Ex.#3. She stated she knew an adverse possession claim required ten years. She stated a “color of title” claim only required five years. She testified that she believed that one had to commit a technical trespass in order to own the property, so that hers was a legitimate trespass. She also used the notice of publication in a newspaper to state her claim. Appellant acknowledged that changing the electricity into someone else’s name could be stressful and might be harassment.

Appellant was asked about the disposition in her *pro se* civil Common Pleas court case against the Town of St. Matthews, Fischer-Bunker, and others. Appellant asked the court if she had to answer the question. The court ruled she had “opened the door” with her own testimony. She answered saying the Circuit Judge had dismissed her civil case, and that the dismissal was with prejudice. She stated she knew that meant she could not bring it again. She acknowledged that the dismissal was because she had no legal grounds and the civil case was now closed. She stated she has appealed the Circuit Judge’s dismissal of her civil case, and that the appeal was still pending in the S.C. Court of Appeals.

Appellant was asked if she actually went inside the house, and she objected to the question. The court ruled that Appellant had again “opened the door” with Brown’s testimony. She answered that she did go in the house. Appellant was asked if she was a lawful tenant of the property and she stated that being a tenant was not required because she was an “occupant.” She admitted she had no contract with the owner Fischer.

Re-Direct of Shaneeka Stroman, Appellant.

The court offered Appellant the opportunity for her own re-direct if there was anything else she wanted to say or testify to in response to the State’s cross-examination questions. Appellant had no further testimony.

The defense rested. Appellant did not re-offer her pre-marked exhibits after her and Brown’s testimony so the court did not revisit its ruling that they were likely inadmissible. Def.Ex.# 1,2,4,5,6.

JURY OUT at 2:35p.m.

Directed verdict.

The court again took up a Directed Verdict Motion, *sua sponte*. The court made a finding that there was sufficient evidence for the jury to make the decision, and denied a motion for a directed verdict.

The court reviewed with the parties the process of closing argument and proposed jury instructions, below.

There were no objections.

JURY IN at 2:55p.m.

Closing Argument.

The State opened its closing argument. There were no objections. Appellant gave closing argument. During Appellant's argument, she argued that there were "five elements for adverse possession" and from her point of view listed them. The State objected but the court overruled and allowed Appellant to present her argument as to her defense. The State replied in closing just as to matters raised by Appellant. During the State's rebuttal, Appellant objected to the State's argument that filing a document doesn't make it a valid title to the property. The court overruled the objection because it was a correct statement of law and was in direct response to Appellant's argument as to her *pro se* filed document, Def.Ex.#3, with the Clerk of Court claiming title by adverse possession.

Jury Instructions by the court.

The court gave the following jury instructions taken from the Summary Court Judges' Benchbook: (1) The jurors' duty as to deciders of the facts and the judge's duty as to the law; (2) The credibility of witnesses as the sole province of the jury; (3) Direct and circumstantial evidence; (4) The presumption of innocence; (5) The State's burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt and that a defendant has no burden of proof; (6) The statutory definitions as to the elements of Malicious Injury or Trespass to Real Property and Harassment-2nd degree, taken from S.C. Code Ann. §16-11-520(A) and §16-3-1700(B); (7) Verdict must be unanimous.

The court gave the following additional jury instructions on the law based on the defenses presented by Appellant. As to Malicious Injury or Trespass to Real Property, §16-11-520(A), the court added: The injury or trespass can be slight or minor or none at all; the injury or trespass itself is a violation of the statute, and no "notice" to the alleged trespasser is required; evidence that the person trespassed is sufficient, but the State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the trespass was willful and malicious. As to adverse possession, the court instructed the jurors on S.C. Code Ann. §15-67-210, as follows: The occupation must be held and possessed adversely for a period of ten years; in layman's terms, people often refer to it as squatter's rights' but there is no

separate statute in our law covering squatter's rights; when that phrase is used it is used for the adverse possession statute which requires a minimum of ten years to possess title to land adversely.

The first alternate juror was seated as one of the main jurors had called in with an illness prior to trial. The court asked the second alternate juror to remain while the other jurors went to the jury room, and then the court excused the alternate. The six original jurors were instructed to go to their jury room.

JURY OUT at 3:05p.m.

Jury Deliberations.

The court asked the Appellant and the State if there were any objections, exceptions, or additions to the court's instructions. Appellant objected that the court instructed the jury that the verdict had to be unanimous. The court denied the objection as the instruction was a correct statement of the law. There were no other objections. The court asked the Clerk of Court to hand the jurors in their jury room the verdict form and exhibits that had been admitted into evidence: St.Ex.#1, 2, 3, and 4; and Def.Ex.#3.

JURY QUESTION at 3:20p.m.

The jurors submitted a question in writing. Question: "When was the last time she (Appellant) was found at the residence and the date?" Court stated it intended to instruct the jurors that the court cannot replay the testimony for them or answer evidence questions, and that they the jurors had to determine the facts as best as they individually or collectively remember the facts and evidence. Appellant asked that the court answer the fact question with the specific date from the testimony. The court declined to instruct the jury as to a specific fact because it would be a judicial comment on the facts, and instead instructed the jury as set forth above.

JURY IN at 3:22p.m.

The court answered the jurors' question as set forth above. The court stated it could instruct them on the law again but could not instruct them on facts. The foreman then asked for the instruction of the law again for Malicious Injury or Trespass to Real Property, and the other jurors concurred. The court instructed the jurors on the statutory definition of Malicious Injury or Trespass to Real Property and the additional law on this offense as set forth above.

JURY OUT at 3:25p.m.

The court asked the Appellant and the State if there were any objections, exceptions, or additions to the court's instructions. There were none.

JURY IN at 3:35P.M.

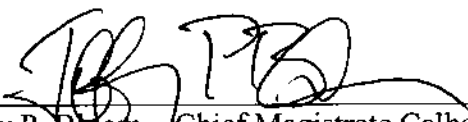
The jury returned a verdict of Guilty. The foreperson signed his name to the verdict. The court asked the jurors if this was all their verdict, and if it was unanimous. All six jurors acknowledged that it was their verdict, still their verdict, and was unanimous.

The court heard from the State and the victim Fischer-Bunker. The court provided an opportunity for Appellant to speak on her own behalf, or for anyone else she had present, but informed her she was not required to say anything. Appellant requested a delay of sentence, provided some mitigating information, and stated her intention to file an appeal. The court had the Clerk of Court give Appellant a blank Notice of Intent to Appeal form and informed Appellant that she had ten (10) days to file an appeal.

The court remarked on the obvious pain and anxiety she had caused to Fischer-Bunker whose appearance during testimony and post-verdict was plain to see as to the distress this episode had caused her. The court also stated that Appellant's beliefs as to "color of title," "adverse possession," "squatter's rights," and the "right to occupy" so as to possess someone else's home, were misinformed and incorrect according to the law; but that the court had granted Appellant a large degree of leeway in her own testimony to present her beliefs to the jury. The court then sentenced Appellant to thirty (30) days on each offense, consecutive, for a total sentence of sixty days in jail. No fine was imposed.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE STATEMENT OF THE RECORD IN THIS CASE.

Dated: October ____, 2025
2833 Old Belleville Road
St. Matthews, S.C. 29135
Tele. (803) 874-1112



Jeffrey P. Bloom - Chief Magistrate Calhoun County

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF CalhounIN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUDICIAL CIRCUITCASE NO.: 2025-CP-09-00213Shaneeka Stroman

Plaintiff,

vs.

State of South Carolina

Defendant.

MOTION AND ORDER INFORMATION
FORM AND COVERSHEET

Plaintiff's Attorney: <u>Shaneeka Stroman</u> Bar No. _____ Address: <u>2117 Commander Rd.</u> <u>North Charleston SC, 29405</u> Phone: _____ Fax: <u>803 596 5784</u> E-mail: _____ Other: <u>ShaneekaStroman@gmail.com</u>	Defendant's Attorney: _____ Bar No. _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____ Other: _____
☒ MOTION HEARING REQUESTED (attach written motion and complete SECTIONS I and III) ☐ FORM MOTION, NO HEARING REQUESTED (complete SECTIONS II and III) ☐ PROPOSED ORDER/CONSENT ORDER (complete SECTIONS II and III)	
SECTION I: Hearing Information	
Nature of Motion: <u>Reconsideration</u> Estimated Time Needed: <u>30 min.</u> Court Reporter Needed: ☒ YES / ☐ NO	
SECTION II: Motion/Order Type	
☒ Written motion attached ☐ Form Motion/Order I hereby move for relief or action by the court as set forth in the attached proposed order.	
Signature of Attorney for ☒ Plaintiff / ☐ Defendant	
<u>12-18-25</u> Date submitted	
SECTION III: Motion Fee	
☒ PAID - AMOUNT: \$ <u>25</u> ☐ EXEMPT: (check reason)	
☐ Rule to Show Cause in Child or Spousal Support ☐ Domestic Abuse or Abuse and Neglect ☐ Indigent Status ☐ State Agency v. Indigent Party ☐ Sexually Violent Predator Act ☐ Post-Conviction Relief ☐ Motion for Stay in Bankruptcy ☐ Motion for Publication ☐ Motion for Execution (Rule 69, SCRPC) ☐ Proposed order submitted at request of the court; or, reduced to writing from motion made in open court per judge's instructions Name of Court Reporter: _____ ☐ Other: _____	
JUDGE'S SECTION ☐ Motion Fee to be paid upon filing of the attached order. ☐ Other: _____	JUDGE CODE _____ Date: _____
CLERK'S VERIFICATION	
Collected by: <u>SW</u> Date Filed: <u>12-18-25</u> ☒ MOTION FEE COLLECTED: \$ <u>25.00</u> ☐ CONTESTED - AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____	

State of South Carolina
County of Calhoun

SUPP. R. 33

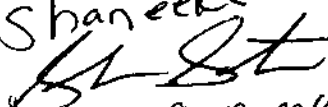
In the Court of Common Pleas

Case #2025-CP-0900213

Plaintiff: Shaneeka Stroman
Defendant: ~~State~~ South Carolina

Motion To Reopen and Reconsider

At the plaintiff's request, Stroman would like to reopen her case, because she wasn't properly notified. Stroman requested a emergency hearing and never received one. Stroman was also incarcerated during the notice of appeal, therefore, Stroman also needs an extension of time because she was unable to prepare her case at the time. Stroman is asking for a motion to prosecute, motion to reopen for a new trial, and a motion to change venue for not receiving a fair hearing. This case was closed by the court and not under the federal rule of law.

Shaneeka Stroman

2117 Commander Rd
North Charleston SC
29405
803-596-5784

FORM 3
NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM COMMON PLEAS REGARDING A
CONVICTION IN MAGISTRATES OR MUNICIPAL COURT

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals
[In the Supreme Court]

APPEAL FROM CALHOUN COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

Jeffery Bloom, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. **2024A0910100026** *2025CP0900213*

The State,

Respondent,

v.

Shaneeka M. Stroman,

Appellant.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Shaneeka Stroman appeals the order of the Honorable Jeffery Bloom dated September 22, 2025, which affirmed his conviction in magistrate's [municipal] court. Appellant received written notice of the order on September 22, 2025.

September 22, 2025,

s/ Shaneeka Stroman

Shaneeka Stroman

2117 Commander

Rd.

North Charleston, South Carolina

29405 (803) 596-5784

Pro se

2025 SEP 26 PM 2:33

FILED

FILED

Motion for reconsider Judge Bloom order.

9/22/2025 2025 SEP 26 PM 2: 33

If I was to go to jail, I'm asking the judge and court for clemency, mercy and have some other type of sentencing for provisional release for the sake of me Stroman is a caregiver for kids and family. Option like Maybe time server or payment plan or community service or ankle monitor system.

s/ Shaneeka Stroman

Shaneeka Stroman 2117 Commander Rd.

North Charleston SC 29405

Case no. 2024 AG 10/00026
9

FORM 7
PROOF OF SERVICE OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals
[In The Supreme Court]

APPEAL FROM CALHOUN COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

Jeffery Bloom, Court Judge

Case No. **2024A0910100026**

2025 CP 09 00213

State of South Carolina

Respondent,

v.

Shaneeeka Stroman,

Appellant.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on Jeffery Bloom by depositing a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on September 24, 2025, addressed to his record, **2833 Old Belleville Rd; St. Matthews SC 29135**; Phone: 803-874-1112, South Carolina 29135 [by personally delivering a copy of it to his her office at **2833 Old Belleville Rd; St. Matthews SC 29135**; Phone: 803-874-1112, on September 26, 2025].

September 23, 2025,

s/ Shaneeeka Stroman

Shaneeeka Stroman
2117 commander rd.
North Charleston SC 29405
803-596-5784

2025 SEP 26 PM 2:33

FILED

FORM 3
NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM COMMON PLEAS REGARDING A
CONVICTION IN MAGISTRATES OR MUNICIPAL COURT

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals
[In The Supreme Court]

APPEAL FROM CALHOUN COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

Heath Taylor, Circuit Court

Judge

Case No. 2025-CP-09-00213

The State,

Respondent,

v.

Shaneeeka Stroman,

Appellant.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Shaneeeka Stroman appeals the order of the Honorable Heath Taylor dated December 18, 2025, which affirmed his conviction in magistrates [municipal] court. Appellant received written notice of the order on December 18, 2025.

December 26, 2025

s/Shaneeeka
Stroman
Shaneeeka Stroman
335 horses neck
rd., Swansea SC
29160
Pro-se for Appellant

RECEIVED

Dec 29 2025

SC Court of Appeals

FILED
2026 JAN -6 AM 10:37
CLERK OF COURT
CALHOUN COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

ARREST WARRANT

2024A0910100026

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Calhoun

THE STATE

against

Shaneeeka Monet Stroman

Address:

Swansea, SC

Phone:

SSN:

Sex: F Race: B Height: 5 6 Weight: 199

DL State: SC DL #:

DOB: Agency ORI #: SC0090000

Prosecuting Agency: Calhoun County Sheriff

Prosecuting Officer: Roger A Carter, II - S00259

Offense: Harassment / 2nd degree Harassment

Offense Code: 2401

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-1700(B)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality ofThe accused
is to be arrested and brought before me to be
dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to
defendant S. STROMAN
on 2/8/24

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

St. Matthews Magistrate
2833 Old Belleville Road / P O Box 191
St. Matthews, SC 29135

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Calhoun

Personally appeared before me the affiant Roger A Carter, II who
being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Shaneeeka Monet Stroman
did within this county and state on or about 9/21/2023 violate the criminal laws of the
State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Calhoun)
in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Harassment / 2nd degree Harassment

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

That between September 21 - November 21, 2023, and continuing thereafter, in the County of Calhoun, one Shaneeeka Monet Stroman did engage in a pattern of unreasonable intrusion into the private life of the victim that served no legitimate purpose and caused the victim & would cause a reasonable person to suffer mental or emotional distress. Defendant has no lawful claim to the premises at St Matthews. On 9/21/23 Defendant changed the electric power account with Dominion Energy into Defendant's name. On 10/31/23 and 11/21/23, Defendant again attempted to change the power into her name. Defendant submitted "sham" documents to the County Clerk of Court in an unlawful &/or fraud attempt to claim these premises as her own. In Case No. 2023-CP-09-00171, the Circuit Court of Common Pleas dismissed defendant's claims with prejudice; and defendant admitted in court to trespassing on the premises. The victim is Emily Fischer Bunker, with POA over her mother's property, Carol Benoit

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Calhoun

Affiant's Address 2811 Old Belleville RoadSt. Matthews, SC 29135-Affiant's Telephone (803)874-2741

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 9/21/2023 defendant Shaneeeka Monet Stroman
did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Calhoun) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Harassment / 2nd degree Harassment

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable
Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 2/ 5/2024

Signature of Issuing Judge

Jeffrey P. Bloom

Judge Code: 7375Judge's Address Post Office Box 191St. Matthews, SC 29135-Judge's Telephone (803)874-1112Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

SUPP. R. 38

ARREST WARRANT

2024A0910100025

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Calhoun

THE STATE
against

Shaneeeka Monet Stroman

Address:

Swansea, SC

Phone: SSN:

Sex: F Race: B Height: 5 6 Weight: 199

DL State: SC DL #:

DOB: Agency ORI #: SC0090000

Prosecuting Agency: Calhoun County Sheriff

Prosecuting Officer: Roger A Carter, II - S00259

Offense: Malicious / Malicious injury to tree, house;
trespass upon real property, injury value \$2,000 or

Offense Code: 3428

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-11-0520(A)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality ofThe accused
is to be arrested and brought before me to be
dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to
defendant S. STROMAN
on 2/8/24

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

St. Matthews Magistrate
2833 Old Belleville Road / P O Box 191
St. Matthews, SC 29135

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Calhoun

Personally appeared before me the affiant Roger A Carter, II who
being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Shaneeeka Monet Stroman
did within this county and state on or about 9/21/2023 violate the criminal laws of the
State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Calhoun)
in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Malicious / Malicious injury to tree, house; trespass upon real property, injury value \$2,000 or less

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:That between September 21 - 26, 2023, in the County of Calhoun, one Shaneeeka Monet Stroman did willfully, unlawfully and
maliciously commit a trespass upon the real property of another at St Matthews, SC. Defendant did not have
permission to be on these premises. Defendant went onto the property, attempted to post signs, placed some of her own personal
property on the premises inc. a lawnmower, and attempted without authority of law to claim the premises as her own. In Case No.
2023-CP-09-00171, the Circuit Court of Common Pleas dismissed defendant's claims with prejudice; and defendant admitted in
court to trespassing on the premises. The victim is Emily Fischer Bunker, with POA over her mother's property, Carol Benoit
Fischer.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Calhoun

Affiant's Address 2811 Old Belleville Road
St. Matthews, SC 29135-Affiant's Telephone (803)874-2741

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 9/21/2023 defendant Shaneeeka Monet Stroman
did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Calhoun) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Malicious / Malicious injury to tree, house; trespass upon real property, injury value \$2,000 or less

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or
her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as
soon thereafter as is practicable
Sworn to and subscribed before meon 2/ 5/2024Signature of Issuing Judge
Jeffrey P. BloomJudge Code: 7375Judge's Address Post Office Box 191
St. Matthews, SC 29135-Judge's Telephone (803)874-1112Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

AFFIDAVIT

SUPP. R. 39