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Wanda H. Carter, Chief Appellate Defender

August 14, 2026

RECEIVED
Aug 14 2026
SC Court of Appeals

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

Re: The State v. Braden Bowers
Appellate Case No. 2026-000479

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

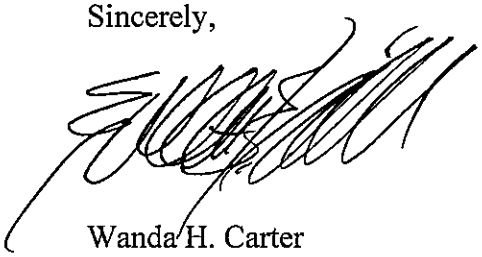
The Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter to be included in the Record on Appeal in the case are due to be filed with the Court on September 4, 2026.

On January 9, 2023, Mr. Bowers pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine at the Greenville County General Sessions Court before Judge Alex Kinlaw, and was sentenced via sealed sentence. On March 21, 2024, Judge Patrick Cleburne Fant opened and handed down the sealed sentence in court, but did not publish the sentence as Mr. Bowers was not present for sentencing. Mr. Bowers was present in court on February 13, 2026, when Judge Fant published the sentence.

The transcripts from hearings held on all three dates listed above have been obtained; however, there was a reference announced at the March 21, 2024, hearing to the effect that another court session was scheduled in the case on February 22, 2024, but Mr. Bowers was absent on that date. It is possible that the February 22, 2024, hearing either convened, or convened for a short period of time, or was cancelled altogether. Nonetheless, on August 13, 2026, out of an abundance of caution, the undersigned counsel placed an order requesting a transcript for a February 22, 2024, hearing in the event that a proceeding was actually held on that date.

This is a request for the above titled appeal to be held in abeyance pending receipt of a February 22, 2024, hearing transcript if a hearing was actually convened on that date. I will contact the Court with updates as information becomes available in this matter.

Sincerely,



Wanda H. Carter
Chief Appellate Defender

WHC/sl

cc: Mark R. Farthing, Esquire