

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

Valentino M. Hayward, Petitioner,

v.

State of South Carolina, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2025-001530

ORDER

Petitioner's counsel has submitted a petition for a writ of certiorari pursuant to *Johnson v. State*, 294 S.C. 310, 364 S.E.2d 201 (1988), and a motion to be relieved as counsel. The panel voted to deny the motion to be relieved as counsel and directs the parties to address the following question and any other questions of arguable merit:

Was trial counsel ineffective for failing to enter into plea negotiations because of his admitted failure to review jail calls provided by the State in discovery?

Petitioner shall serve and file a petition for writ of certiorari on this question within thirty days of the date of this order. Thereafter, Respondent shall have thirty days to serve and file its return.

FOR THE COURT

BY


CLERK

Columbia, South Carolina

FILED
Aug 21 2026

cc:

D. Russell Barlow, II, Esquire

David Alexander, Esquire

Valentino M. Hayward, 366107

The Honorable George M. McFaddin, Jr.