

VERIFIED APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION *PRO HAC VICE* IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Please type your answers in the space provided. Provide an answer for every question asked. In your own handwriting, sign in all spaces where a signature is required (no e-signatures). The accompanying certificate of good standing should not be older than 90 days at the time of the filing of this application.

RECEIVED

Aug 24 2026

S.C. SUPREME COURT

Richland County Court of
Common Pleas
Tribunal

THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA ex. rel. Alan Wilson, in
his official capacity as Attorney
General of the State of South
Carolina,

Plaintiff

2024-CP-40-06018

Case No.

vs.

TIKTOK INC., TIKTOK LLC,
TOKTOK PTE. LTD,
BYTEDANCE INC., AND
BYTEDANCE LTD,

Defendants.

Mailing Address of Tribunal:

PO Box 2766

Columbia, SC 29202

Comes now Benjamin C. Block, applicant herein, and respectfully represents the following:

1. Applicant resides at:

312 Princeton Blvd

Street Address

Alexandria

City

703.548.7419

Telephone

County

VA

State

22314

Zip Code

2. Applicant is an attorney and a member of the law firm of (or practices law under the name of)

Covington & Burling LLP

, with offices at

One CityCenter, 850 Tenth Street, NW

Street Address

Washington

City

202.662.5205

Primary Telephone

County

703.597.2989

Cell Phone

DC

State

202.778.5205

Fax Number

20001-4956

Zip Code

bblock@cov.com

Email Address

3. Applicant has been retained personally or as a member of the above-named law firm by

TikTok Inc., TikTok LLC, TikTok Pte. Ltd, TikTok, Ltd, Bytedance Inc., and ByteDance Ltd to provide legal representation in connection with the above case now pending before the above-named tribunal of the State of South Carolina.

4. Since October of 2001, Applicant has been, and presently is, a

member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of the District of Columbia or the State of Virginia where Applicant regularly practices law. Attached is a certificate of good standing dated within the last 90 days from the bar of the highest court of the District of Columbia or the State where applicant regularly practices law. It is not necessary to provide a certificate of good standing from all courts before which you are admitted.

5. List all courts before which Applicant has been admitted to practice law, including United States District Courts; United States Circuit Courts of Appeals; the Supreme Court of the United States; and state courts or the District of Columbia.

Court:	Date Admitted:
See attached	

Is Applicant presently a member in good standing of the bars of those courts listed above? List any court named in the preceding paragraph that applicant is no longer admitted to practice before.

YES

6. Is Applicant presently subject to any suspension or disbarment proceedings, or has Applicant been formally notified of any complaints pending before a disciplinary agency? If yes, give particulars, e.g., jurisdiction, court date.

N/A

7. Has Applicant had any application for admission *pro hac vice* in this or any other jurisdiction denied or any *pro hac vice* admission revoked? If yes give particulars, e.g., date, court, docket number, judge, circumstances; attach a copy of any order of denial or revocation.

NO

8. Has Applicant had any certificate or privilege to appear and practice before any court or administrative body suspended or revoked? If yes, give particulars, e.g., date, court, administrative body, date of suspension and reinstatement.

NO

9. Please be aware that local counsel must be Rule 403 certified. Local counsel of record associated

with Applicant in this case is David E. Dukes, Thad H. Westbrook and Merritt G. Abney of the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP law firm, which has offices at:

151 Meeting Street, Suite 600

Street Address

Charleston

City

Charleston

County

SC

State

29401

Zip Code

david.dukes@nelsonmullins.com
thad.westbrook@nelsonmullins.com
merritt.abney@nelsonmullins.com
Email Address

843-853-5200
Primary Telephone

843-534-4110
Cell Phone

843-722-8700
Fax Number

1783; 16635; 71893
South Carolina Bar Number
(You must provide Bar Number)

10. Has Applicant previously filed an application to appear *pro hac vice* in South Carolina cases? If yes, give case name and status of litigation, date of application, local counsel of record in each case, and state whether application is pending or was granted.

NO

11. Does Applicant agree to comply with the applicable statutes, laws and rules of the State of South Carolina and familiarize him/herself with and comply with the South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct? Does Applicant consent to the jurisdiction of the South Carolina courts and Commission on Lawyer Conduct.

YES

12. Applicant respectfully requests to be admitted to practice in the above-named tribunal for this case only.

DATED this 19th day of December, 2024


APPLICANT

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me

on Dec. 19, 2024 by Danute D. Abrishami

Date

Name(s) of individual(s) making Statement

Signature of Notarial Officer

VERIFICATION

Danute D. Abrishami - Notary Public, District of Columbia
My commission expires May 14, 2028

COUNTY OF _____)

I, Benjamin C. Block, do hereby swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am the applicant in the above-styled matter; that I have read the foregoing application and know the contents thereof; and that the contents are true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and that as to those matters I believe them to be true. I understand that I am under a continuing duty to promptly update the information provided in the application until the tribunal has ruled on the motion for admission pro hac vice. Further, if the motion is granted, I understand that I am under a continuing duty to promptly update the information provided in the application as long as I continue to appear pro hac vice in the action or proceeding. Any updated information shall be provided to both the tribunal that granted the motion and to the tribunal in which the action or proceeding may then be pending.

Benjamin C. Block
APPLICANT/AFFIANT

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of December, 20 24

Danute D. Abrishami
(Notary Signature)

Notary Public for the State of District of Columbia

My Commission Expires: _____



LOCAL COUNSEL CONSENT

I hereby consent, as local counsel of record, to the association of applicant in this cause pursuant to Rules Governing Admission *Pro Hac Vice* to the South Carolina Bar.

DATED this 6th day of January, 20 25

[Signature]
LOCAL COUNSEL OF RECORD

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of this application upon the South Carolina Supreme Court by mail addressed to: South Carolina Supreme Court Office of Bar Admissions, PO Box 11330, Columbia, SC 29211, accompanied by payment of the \$250 filing fee payable to the South Carolina Supreme Court on this

6th day of January, 2025

[Signature]

BENJAMIN C. BLOCK BAR ADMISSIONS

1. Commonwealth of Virginia, admitted on October 17, 2001, Bar No. 46669.
2. District of Columbia, admitted on November 1, 2002, Bar No. 479705.
3. Supreme Court of the United States, admitted on August 15, 2011.
4. United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, admitted on April 30, 2002.
5. United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, admitted on September 29, 2014.
6. United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, admitted on June 2, 2014.
7. United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, admitted on June 21, 2005.
8. United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, admitted on December 1, 2003. Renewed December 4, 2023.
9. United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, admitted on June 7, 2010.
10. United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, admitted on June 2, 2014.
11. United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, admitted on May 6, 2008.
12. United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, admitted on October 13, 2005.
13. United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, admitted on June 1, 2009. Renewed April 2023.
14. United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, admitted on October 12, 2012.
15. United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, admitted on December 1, 2014.
16. United States District Court for the District of Columbia, admitted on November 7, 2011. Renewed October 27, 2015; May 20, 2019; December 13, 2023.
17. United States District Court for the District of Maryland, admitted on March 7, 2003, Bar No. 15811. Renewed June 2012.
18. United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, admitted on June 12, 2009.

19. United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, admitted on August 16, 2013.

Supreme Court of Virginia

AT RICHMOND

Certificate

I, Muriel-Theresa Pitney, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Virginia,
do hereby certify that

Benjamin Conrad Block

was admitted to practice as an attorney and counsellor at the bar of this Court on
October 29, 2001.

I further certify that so far as the records of this office are
concerned, Benjamin Conrad Block is a member of the bar of this Court in
good standing.

Witness my hand and seal of said Court

This 7th day of November

A.D. 2024

By:



Deputy Clerk



*On behalf of JULIO A. CASTILLO, Clerk of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals,
the District of Columbia Bar does hereby certify that*

Benjamin Conrad Block

*was duly qualified and admitted on November 1, 2002 as an attorney and counselor entitled to
practice before this Court; and is, on the date indicated below, an Active member in good
standing of this Bar.*

*In Testimony Whereof,
I have hereunto subscribed my
name and affixed the seal of this
Court at the City of
Washington, D.C., on December 18, 2024.*

Julio A. Castillo
JULIO A. CASTILLO
Clerk of the Court

Issued By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Chu".

David Chu - Director, Membership
District of Columbia Bar Membership

***For questions or concerns, please contact the D.C. Bar Membership Office at 202-626-3475 or email
memberservices@dcbar.org.***



The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Office of Bar Admissions

PATRICIA A. HOWARD
CLERK OF COURT

KATHLEEN "TINA" BRYANT
MANAGER, OFFICE OF BAR
ADMISSIONS

POST OFFICE BOX 11330
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1317
FAX: (803) 734-0394

January 9, 2025

The Honorable Jeanette W. McBride
Clerk of Court
Post Office Box 2766
Columbia, SC 29202-2766

RE: The State of South Carolina v. TikTok Inc., et al.

Case No.: 2024-CP-40-06018

Dear Ms. McBride:

I certify that the Office of Bar Admissions has received a verified application requesting Benjamin C. Block be admitted *pro hac vice* in the above action. The \$250 filing fee for the applicant has been paid.

Sincerely,

M.J. Thames
Bar Admissions Coordinator

cc: Benjamin C. Block
David E. Dukes, Thad Westbrook, Merritt G. Abney

ELECTRONICALLY FILED - 2025 Feb 04 11:11 AM - RICHLAND - COMMON PLEAS - CASE#2024CP4006018