

**From:** [Merritt Abney](#)  
**To:** [Shealy, Brenda](#)  
**Cc:** [glambert@governor.sc.gov](mailto:glambert@governor.sc.gov); [eshedd@governor.sc.gov](mailto:eshedd@governor.sc.gov); [tmcbride@governor.sc.gov](mailto:tmcbride@governor.sc.gov); [David Dukes](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Office of the Governor v. TikTok Inc.  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 25, 2026 12:01:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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\*\*\* **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Good Morning, Ms. Shealy – I believe you may have intended to write *August 26, 2026*, rather than *September, 26, 2026*, in your email below regarding the deadline for our Return.

I spoke with Petitioner’s counsel (copied here) this morning, and we have agreed to postpone the deposition of the Office of the Governor that was scheduled for next week. Because the scheduled deposition was the reason for Petitioner’s request for expedited relief by August 31, 2026, that request is now moot.

Pursuant to Rule 245(c), I understand that we have 20 days from the date of service in which to file our Return, which would make the Return due on or before **September 14, 2026**.

Please confirm that the deadline to file and serve our Return is September 14, 2026. Please let me know if you need anything further from me in connection with this request.

Best regards,



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MERRITT G. ABNEY **PARTNER**  
[merritt.abney@nelsonmullins.com](mailto:merritt.abney@nelsonmullins.com)  
LIBERTY CENTER | SUITE 600  
151 MEETING STREET | CHARLESTON, SC 29401  
T 843.534.4110 F 843.722.8700  
[NELSONMULLINS.COM](http://NELSONMULLINS.COM) [VCARD](#) [VIEW BIO](#)

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**From:** Shealy, Brenda <BShealy@sccourts.org>

**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2026 3:57 PM

**To:** glambert@governor.sc.gov; eshedd@governor.sc.gov; tmcbride@governor.sc.gov; Merritt Abney <merritt.abney@nelsonmullins.com>; David Dukes <david.dukes@nelsonmullins.com>

**Subject:** Office of the Governor v. TikTok Inc.

Dear Counsel:

Please excuse my first email. The return should be filed by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, **September 26, 2026**, instead of Wednesday, September 2, 2026. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,



*Brenda F. Shealy*

*Chief Deputy Clerk*

**Supreme Court of South Carolina**

**P. O. Box 11330**

**Columbia, SC 29211**

**Office: (803) 734-1080**

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**From:** Shealy, Brenda

**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2026 2:11 PM

**To:** Lambert, Grayson <[GLambert@governor.sc.gov](mailto:GLambert@governor.sc.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: New Original Jurisdiction Case - Office of the Governor v. TikTok Inc.

Thank you. I will not list Ms. Smith on the current case unless you advise otherwise, since she is involved at the trial level. This is very helpful.

Brenda

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**From:** Lambert, Grayson <[GLambert@governor.sc.gov](mailto:GLambert@governor.sc.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2026 2:06 PM

**To:** Shealy, Brenda <[BShealy@sccourts.org](mailto:BShealy@sccourts.org)>

**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: New Original Jurisdiction Case - Office of the Governor v. TikTok Inc.

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Brenda,

Merritt Abney at Nelson Mullins is counsel for the Respondents, all of whom are defendants in the state court litigation in which the subpoena was issued. These TikTok entities also have out-of-state counsel in the trial court from Covington & Burling. The attached answer from the trial court has all those lawyers' contact information.

Anna Smith from the Attorney General's office is representing the State in the trial court. I copied her so that she was aware of the Governor's Office's filing, given that it relates to her case.

Regards,  
Grayson



**Wm. Grayson Lambert**  
*Chief Legal Counsel*  
Office of the Governor  
State of South Carolina  
(o) 803-734-0091  
(m) 803-771-1331  
[glambert@governor.sc.gov](mailto:glambert@governor.sc.gov)

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**From:** Shealy, Brenda <[BShealy@sccourts.org](mailto:BShealy@sccourts.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2026 1:57 PM

**To:** Lambert, Grayson <[GLambert@governor.sc.gov](mailto:GLambert@governor.sc.gov)>

**Subject:** [External] RE: New Original Jurisdiction Case - Office of the Governor v. TikTok Inc.

Dear Mr. Lambert:

Are the other attorneys listed representing all respondents or is there some breakdown?

Thank you,  
Brenda

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**From:** Lambert, Grayson <[GLambert@governor.sc.gov](mailto:GLambert@governor.sc.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2026 1:19 PM

**To:** Supreme Court Filings <[suptctfilings@sccourts.org](mailto:suptctfilings@sccourts.org)>

**Cc:** Shealy, Brenda <[BShealy@sccourts.org](mailto:BShealy@sccourts.org)>; Merritt Abney <[merritt.abney@nelsonmullins.com](mailto:merritt.abney@nelsonmullins.com)>; Anna Smith <[annasmith@scag.gov](mailto:annasmith@scag.gov)>

**Subject:** New Original Jurisdiction Case - Office of the Governor v. TikTok Inc.

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Ms. Howard,

Please find attached for filing four documents in this new original jurisdiction case: (1) the petition for original jurisdiction, (2) the complaint, (3) the Rule 245(c) notice, and (4) an emergency stay motion regarding compliance with the subpoena while the case is pending. Also attached is an email serving these documents on TikTok's counsel in related litigating pending in circuit court.

The stay motion seeks relief by noon on August 31, 2026.

Respectfully,  
Grayson Lambert



**Wm. Grayson Lambert**  
*Chief Legal Counsel*  
Office of the Governor  
State of South Carolina  
(o) 803-734-0091  
(m) 803-771-1331  
[glambert@governor.sc.gov](mailto:glambert@governor.sc.gov)

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