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S.C. SUPREME COURT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE SUPREME COURT

Certiorari to Greenville County

The Honorable Patrick Cleburne Fant, III, Circuit Court Judge

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SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

PETITIONER,

V.

BRADEN SPEARS BOWERS,

RESPONDENT.

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2026-000479

PETITION FOR ORDER TO UNSEAL COURT'S EXHIBITS
AND CONTINUE ABEYANCE HOLD

Pursuant to Rule 240 SCACR, the undersigned counsel requests that this Court issue an Order requesting that Sealed Court's Exhibits #1 (Bail Order) and #2 (Plea/Bail Conditions) in the above titled case be unsealed and delivered for inspection and review in order to perfect the case on appeal. In support of this motion, counsel submits the following information.

1. Appellant Braden S. Bowers pled guilty to trafficking in cocaine at the January 2023 term of the Greenville County General Sessions Court before Alex Kinlaw, who deferred sentencing, but issued a seated sentence in the case. Also, Judge Kinlaw ordered that Court's Exhibits #1 and #2, which included a bail order and plea/bail conditions, respectively, would be sealed in the case.

2. A sentencing hearing in the case was held on March 21, 2024, at the Greenville County General Sessions Court before Judge Patrick Cleburne Fant, III. Appellant was not present at the sentencing hearing; and as a result, Judge Fant imposed the sealed sentence, but did not publish the sentence.

3. On February 13, 2026, appellant was present at the Greenville County Courthouse before Judge Fant when the sealed sentence (twenty-five-year imprisonment) was read and published in open court.

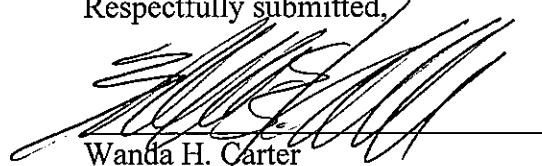
4. Appellant appealed and the undersigned counsel has been assigned the case. The case on appeal contains potential issues regarding whether appellant received notice of his sentencing hearing that was held in his absence, and whether his sentence was excessive in light of the plea agreements connected to bail and the plea. Therefore, the bond order and conditions of plea/bond presently under seal as Court's Exhibits #1 and #2, respectively, are necessary for perusal as the same would possibly include relevant documents and information in support of the above cited potential appellate issues intended to be raised in the case. In addition, securing said documents would comply with Rule, 209, SCARC, regarding designated matter to be included in the Record on Appeal in the case.

5. Additionally, it is the undersigned counsel's belief that previously this appeal was placed in abeyance pending correspondence sent to the Court on August 14, 2026, requesting that the case be held in abeyance pending receipt of information on whether a transcript of a possible hearing held in the case was missing from the file. It was revealed on August 18, 2026, via court reporter confirmation that no such hearing was ever held on the questioned date. However, the undersigned counsel would request that the appeal continue to be held in abeyance

pending a ruling from the Court regarding the instant petition requesting an Order to unseal Court Exhibits #1 and #2 in the case.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned counsel would request that this Court issue an Order for sealed Court's Exhibits #1 and #2 to be unsealed and delivered for inspection in order to perfect the case on appeal, and that the appeal continue to be held in abeyance pending a resolution in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Wanda H. Carter
Chief Appellate Defender

This 28th day of August, 2026.

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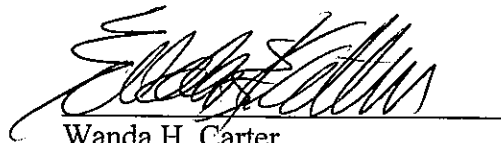
V.

BRANDEN SPEARS BOWERS,

RESPONDENT.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Rule 262(a)(3) and Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR, the undersigned hereby certifies a true copy of the petition for order to unseal court's Exhibits and continue abeyance hold in the above-referenced case has been served upon Mark R. Farthing, Esquire, at the primary e-mail address listed in the Attorney Information System (AIS), this 28th day of August, 2026.



Wanda H. Carter
Chief Appellate Defender

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

Leverett, Scott

From: Leverett, Scott
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 2:54 PM
To: Mark Farthing
Cc: Grace Sommer; Carter, Wanda
Subject: 2026-000479 - State v. Braden Bowers - Petition for Order to Unseal Court's Exhibits and Continue Abeyance Hold
Attachments: 2026-000479 - State v. Braden Bowers - Petition for Order to Unseal Court's Exhibits and Continue Abeyance Hold.pdf

Dear Mr. Farthing,

Attached please find a copy of the Petition for Order to Unseal Court's Exhibits and Continue Abeyance Hold in the above referenced case that is being filed today with the Supreme Court.

-Scott Leverett
Admin. Asst. for Wanda Carter
Appellate Defense

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S.C. SUPREME COURT

From: [Leverett, Scott](#)
To: [Supreme Court Filings](#)
Cc: [Mark Farthing](#); [Grace Sommer](#); [Carter, Wanda](#)
Subject: 2026-000479 - State v. Braden Bowers - Petition for Order to Unseal Court's Exhibits and Continue Abeyance Hold
Date: Friday, August 28, 2026 2:55:39 PM
Attachments: [2026-000479 - State v. Braden Bowers - Petition for Order to Unseal Court's Exhibits and Continue Abeyance Hold.pdf](#)
[2026-000479 - State v. Braden Bowers - Petition for Order to Unseal Court's Exhibits and Continue Abeyance Hold - Email Proof of Service.pdf](#)

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

Dear Ms. Howard,

Attached please find a Petition for Order to Unseal Court's Exhibits and Continue Abeyance Hold in the above referenced case, as well as the proof of service email to the Attorney General.

-Scott Leverett
Admin. Asst. for Wanda Carter
Appellate Defense

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SC Court of Appeals

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