



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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S.C. SUPREME COURT

September 4, 2026

The Honorable Patricia A. Howard
Clerk, Supreme Court of South Carolina
Post Office Box 11330
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RE: Ricky Lee Blackwell v. State of South Carolina
Appellate Case No: 2025-001377
Capital Case

Dear Ms. Howard:

The Return to Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the above appeal is due to be served and filed today, September 4, 2026. Undersigned counsel hereby requests another 30-day extension in which to serve and file its Return, up to and including Monday, October 5, 2026. Due to counsel's heavy caseload—including addressing other capital matters which will be more specifically outlined below—counsel has, regrettably, been unable to complete the return. Counsel notes, along with administrative duties including changing counsel requests for an attorney leaving the section, the following completed matters within the last 30 days in support of this request:

Preparation and attendance, virtual status conference in a capital PCR action
(Timothy Jones, Aug. 12, 2026);
Preparation and court appearance for a motions hearing in circuit court
(Alex Murdaugh, Aug. 14, 2026);
Appearance in federal district court, Greenville, to remand inmate to State custody
on termination of federal appeal bond (FHC K.C. Langford, Aug. 17, 2026);
Completion and filing of murder direct appeal return (Willie Smith, Aug. 17, 2026);
Completion and filing of murder direct appeal reply (Casey Douglas, Aug. 20, 2026);
Completion and filing of response to rule 60 motion (FHC Tony Moore, Aug. 21, 2026);
Completion and filing, with co-counsel, petition for writ of certiorari in this Court
in a capital PCR appeal (John Richard Wood, Aug. 26, 2026);
Appearance in Greenville County Courthouse for murder direct appeal
remand conference (Zachary Hughes, Aug. 26, 2026);
Completion and service of discovery responses in a capital PCR action (Anthony
Woods, August 27, 2026);
Completion, with primary counsel, and filing of Fourth Circuit appellate brief
(FHC Christopher Hampton, Aug. 31, 2026);
Preparation and attendance, virtual status conference in a capital PCR action
(Anthony Woods, Sept. 1, 2026); and,

Preparation and attendance, court hearing in a capital PCR action (Timothy Jones, Sept. 4, 2026).

In addition to those completed matters listed above, counsel has been:

Preparing for a hearing scheduled for September 21, 2026, in Greenville, in a capital PCR action (Jerry Buck Inman);
Reviewing documentation and communicating with the federal district court and counsel in a currently stayed capital FHC action (James Robertson);
Preparing for argument in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in another capital case (William Dickerson, Sept. 16, 2026); and
Preparation of a memorandum on appealability ordered by the Court of Appeals (Messiah Anderson, due Sept. 8, 2026).

Even so, undersigned counsel has made significant progress in drafting the return in this matter and will continue to work to complete the return.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, I respectfully request this Court grant an additional extension of 30-days to allow for the proper completion of this return. The extension, if granted, would be up to and including Monday, October 5, 2026, for the service and filing of the return.

Opposing counsel has graciously consented to this request.

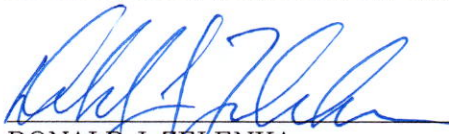
Sincerely,



Melody J. Brown
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

In compliance with:

In Re: Extensions in Criminal and Post-Conviction Relief Cases, (S.C. Sup. Ct. order dated March 18, 2009) (Davis Adv. Sh. No. 13 at 1).


DONALD J. ZELENKA
Deputy Attorney General

cc: Rosalind S.D. Major, Esquire (via email only)
Brianna L. Cruz, Esquire (via email only)