

**IN THE APPEALS COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Nationstar Mortgage, LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, Respondent**

v.

**Carolyn Brantley(2), Petitioner, Appellant
Appellate Case No. 2025-002464**

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**The Honorable Carmen T. Mullen
Jasper County Trial Court Case No. 2022CP2700306
James A. Grimsley III, special referee**

SC Court of Appeals

**APPELLANT'S RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 DEFICIENCY
LETTER, NOTICE OF CLARIFICATION, AND REQUEST FOR ACCURATE
CHARACTERIZATION OF FILINGS**

COMES NOW Carolyn Brantley, Appellant, appearing pro se and without waiver of any constitutional, jurisdictional, equitable, procedural, or substantive right, and respectfully submits this Response to the Court's correspondence dated September 3, 2026.

Appellant submits this Notice for the limited but important purpose of clarifying the nature and identity of the documents previously transmitted to the Court and served upon the identified parties and officers.

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The September 3, 2026 correspondence states that, upon review of Appellant's "brief and affidavit claim of service," the Court construes the filings as a motion for an extension of time.

Appellant respectfully submits that the two referenced documents were separate instruments with separate purposes and should not be collectively or indiscriminately characterized as a single motion.

The Appellant's Brief expressly included a request for leave to file appellate materials out of time based upon the circumstances and constitutional concerns set forth therein.

However, the separately prepared and transmitted document entitled:

"AFFIDAVIT CLAIM OF SERVICE (Electronic Service and Notice of Knowledge)" was not a motion for an extension of time.

The Affidavit Claim of Service was specifically prepared and submitted as sworn evidence concerning electronic service, actual notice, the persons served, and the preservation of a record demonstrating that the identified documents had been transmitted to the listed recipients.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests that the Court distinguish between the two documents and recognize each according to its stated title, purpose, and substance.

II. THE APPELLANT'S BRIEF AND AFFIDAVIT CLAIM OF SERVICE ARE SEPARATE DOCUMENTS

The document entitled:

“ENTRY BY SPECIAL APPEARANCE, APPELLANT'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF LEAVE TO FILE OUT OF TIME, NOTICE OF FRAUD UPON THE COURT, AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT AND DEMAND FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW”

expressly presented Appellant's position concerning the request for leave to file appellate materials out of time.

Within that document, Appellant requested that the Court:

1. Grant leave to file appellate materials out of time;
2. Preserve the status quo pending review;
3. Require preservation of records and evidence relevant to the chain of title and underlying proceedings;
4. Conduct such constitutional and equitable review as justice requires;
5. Consider allegations of fraud upon the court and procedural irregularities affecting the integrity of the proceedings; and
6. Award such other relief as the Court deems just, equitable, and proper.

Therefore, Appellant acknowledges that the Brief itself contains a request for leave to file out of time.

However, the separate Affidavit Claim of Service did not seek an extension of time.

Its stated purpose was to establish:

- a. the identity and capacity of the Affiant;
- b. the persons electronically served;
- c. the documents transmitted;
- d. actual notice and knowledge of the recipients;
- e. the good-faith nature of the filing; and
- f. the preservation of the record concerning electronic service.

The Affidavit expressly states that it was executed “for the purpose of establishing the record of electronic service upon all parties entitled to notice.”

It further states that the Affidavit was intended to constitute evidence that the identified documents were transmitted electronically to the identified recipients.

Thus, respectfully, the Affidavit Claim of Service cannot accurately be characterized as a motion for an extension of time.

III. APPELLANT RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS ACCURATE CHARACTERIZATION OF THE RECORD

Appellant does not seek to dispute the Court's authority to review filings or to determine the procedural posture of matters before it.

Appellant respectfully requests only that the Court accurately distinguish between the separate documents submitted.

The Brief contained substantive requests for relief, including leave to file out of time.

The Affidavit Claim of Service was a separate sworn instrument offered to establish service and notice.

These documents should not be merged into a single filing for purposes of characterization where their titles, contents, purposes, and requested relief are materially different.

Respectfully, when a litigant expressly identifies the nature and purpose of separate documents, the record should preserve those distinctions.

This is particularly important where procedural consequences, including dismissal, may result from the characterization assigned to a filing.

IV. APPELLANT RESPECTFULLY SEEKS EQUAL PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS

Appellant recognizes the obligation of parties appearing before this Court to comply with applicable rules and procedures.

Appellant does not seek exemption from those rules.

However, Appellant respectfully submits that if an unrepresented litigant is expected to meet the standards of legal procedure ordinarily required in appellate litigation, fundamental fairness requires that the Court likewise read and characterize that litigant's submissions according to their actual titles, stated purposes, contents, and requests for relief.

Appellant respectfully should not be held responsible for procedural consequences arising from a characterization of her separate Affidavit that Appellant herself did not make.

The Affidavit Claim of Service was specifically captioned and organized as an affidavit.

It did not request additional time.

It did not seek an extension.

It did not ask the Court to enlarge a deadline.

Its stated purpose was to establish evidence of electronic service and notice.

Appellant respectfully submits that the distinction is material and should be preserved.

V. REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE FILING FEE

The September 3, 2026 correspondence identifies the absence of a \$50.00 filing fee as a deficiency and directs that the deficiency be corrected within ten (10) days to avoid dismissal.

Appellant respectfully requests clarification concerning the precise filing or request to which the referenced \$50.00 fee applies.

Specifically, Appellant respectfully requests that the Court clarify:

1. Whether the \$50.00 fee is associated with the request for leave to file out of time contained within the Appellant's Brief;
2. Whether the fee applies to a particular motion or procedural request;
3. Whether the Affidavit Claim of Service itself has been assessed as requiring a filing fee; and
4. Whether correction of the Court's characterization of the Affidavit affects the identified deficiency.

Appellant respectfully submits this request for clarification in good faith and in an effort to comply accurately with any applicable procedural requirement.

VI. NO WAIVER OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Nothing contained in this Response shall be construed as a withdrawal, abandonment, waiver, or concession concerning the substantive matters presented in Appellant's previously submitted Brief.

Appellant continues to maintain and preserve her previously stated concerns concerning:

- a. constitutional due process;
- b. adequacy and timing of notice;
- c. meaningful opportunity to be heard;
- d. property and estate interests;
- e. standing and authority;
- f. chain-of-title issues;
- g. alleged procedural irregularities;
- h. preservation of relevant records and evidence; and
- i. allegations concerning fraud upon the court.

Appellant further expressly reserves all constitutional, statutory, equitable, procedural, jurisdictional, and substantive rights.

VII. GOOD-FAITH CLARIFICATION

This Response is not submitted for purposes of delay or to create unnecessary controversy.

Rather, it is submitted to prevent an inadvertent misunderstanding from becoming part of the procedural record.

Appellant respectfully believes that precision in the characterization of filings is especially important where the Court has advised that dismissal may result from an uncorrected deficiency.

The Court's September 3, 2026 correspondence identifies both the Brief and Affidavit Claim of Service together.

Appellant respectfully requests that the Court recognize the separate nature of those instruments and address the Brief and Affidavit according to their respective purposes.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Appellant Carolyn Brantley respectfully requests that this Honorable Court:

1. Recognize and distinguish the separate documents previously submitted by Appellant;
2. Recognize that Appellant's Brief contains the request for leave to file appellate materials out of time;
3. Recognize that the separately submitted Affidavit Claim of Service was not a motion for an extension of time, but rather a sworn instrument intended to establish electronic service and notice;
4. Clarify the precise procedural basis for the \$50.00 filing-fee deficiency identified in the September 3, 2026 correspondence;
5. Permit Appellant a reasonable opportunity to cure any properly identified procedural deficiency after receiving such clarification;
6. Refrain from dismissing the appeal based upon confusion concerning the characterization of separate documents;
7. Preserve Appellant's substantive issues for consideration according to applicable law and procedure; and
8. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just, equitable, and proper.

Further Appellant sayeth not.

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of September, 2026.

Carolyn Brantley
Carolyn Brantley

Appellant, Pro Se

Grantor and General Executor of the Carolyn Brantley Estate

200 Oak Plantation Drive

Ridgeland, South Carolina 29936

Telephone: 843.812.4724

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Appellate Case No. 2025-002464

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

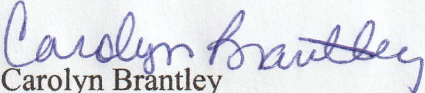
I hereby certify that on the 8th day of September, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Appellant's Response to September 3, 2026 Deficiency Letter, Notice of Clarification, and Request for Accurate Characterization of Filings was served upon the appropriate parties and counsel of record by electronic mail and/or such other method authorized by the applicable South Carolina Appellate Court Rules.

Service was directed to:

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Judge Carmen T. Mullen
Jasper County
cmullensc@sccourts.org

James A. Grimsley III, Special Referee
jimgrimsley@tgdcpa.com


Carolyn Brantley
Appellant, Sui juris