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Sep 29 2026
SC Court of Appeals

From: Melissa Lemaster
To: Court Of Appeals Filings
Subject: EMERGENCY FILING - State vs. Christopher Lemaster- Notice of Appeal (Pro Se Due to Counsel Inaction)
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 1:26:58 PM
Attachments: SCACRIIFORM07 copy.docx
final notice of appeal.docx

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TO THE CLERK OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS:

I am writing to formally request emergency administrative intervention from this Court on behalf of my incarcerated fiancé, Christopher Lyn Lemaster, who is currently detained in the Greenville County Detention Center. This Court is our final avenue of relief to prevent a severe, fraudulent deprivation of his constitutional right to a direct appeal.

On Thursday, September 24, 2026, a 10-year felony suspended sentence and plea agreement were extracted from the Defendant under extreme duress, material misrepresentation, and documented inter-attorney collusion to suppress exculpatory evidence. Today, Monday, September 28, 2026, I attempted to file a Pro Se Notice of Appeal on his behalf at the Greenville County Clerk of Court counter. The Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office accepted physical service, but the Clerk of Court administratively rejected the filing because privately retained counsel of record, Fred Spivey, Esq., remains listed as active counsel on the electronic docket. Attorney Fred Spivey and his investigator, Jay Atkins, are actively and knowingly exploiting this clerk's office formatting rule to run down the clock on the Defendant's strict 10-day appellate window, which expires on Monday, October 5, 2026.

Specifically:
1. Refusal to Act or Relieve Counsel: The private firm flatly refuses to file a Notice of Appeal themselves, and simultaneously refuses to file a motion to withdraw or step down from

1. the docket. They are deliberately remaining as counsel of record solely to lock the Defendant out of the court system.
2. Direct Extortion and Intimidation: Upon learning of our attempt to file the appeal today, investigator Jay Atkins contacted me via telephone and explicitly threatened our family, stating that if we pursue this appeal we will "put Chris in danger" and "mess ourselves up for life." This is a direct attempt to terrorize an indigent family into silence to cover up active professional malpractice, protect the state from its

severe Brady violations regarding our automated corporate Uber alibi evidence, and shield the firm from an active Supreme Court Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) investigation (File No. 26-DE-L-1362)

Furthermore, on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 11:03 AM, the prosecutor deliberately canceled an evidentiary meeting with my Public Defender where our corporate innocence statement was to be presented, explicitly using a false pretense that a Thursday plea bargain was already finalized-days before Fred Spivey or Jay Atkins ever presented any plea to the Defendant. When confronted, investigator Atkins dismissed this active collusion by stating, "Melissa, y'all are reading way too much into this."

Because the Greenville County Public Defender's Office represented me as a co-defendant on these exact underlying conspiracy parameters, prior to the dismissal of my retaliatory charges, a non-waivable agency conflict existed, preventing them from stepping in directly to represent Chris.
We are entirely blockaded. The attorney of record is actively sabotaging the 10-day timeline to kill the appeal by fraud, the local clerk is bound by docket restrictions, and the client is trapped in a cell. We submit this emergency notice of intent to appeal directly to the South Carolina Court of Appeals to bypass the local blockade, freeze the trial court record, and request the immediate administrative appointment of an independent State Conflict Panel Appellate Attorney to assume control of this appeal.

Respectfully submitted under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of South Carolina.

Melissa Anne Freeman,

on behalf of Defendant
Christopher Lyn Lemaster
4307 Edwards Rd., Apt 10F,
Taylors, SC 29687
Phone: 843-925-0229

(PLEASE SEE PDF ATTACHMENT OF WHAT I SERVED TO THE SOLICITORS OFFICE

YESTERDAY, THE NOTICE OF APPEAL, PROOF OF SERVICE, DURABLE POA ASSIGNMENT, AND SCREENSHOTS OF TEXT MESSAGES TO THE ATTORNEYS OFFICE ASKING TO FILE.)

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