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S.C. Supreme Court

State of South Carolina  
The Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

Benjamin H. Culbertson  
Resident Circuit Judge

P. O. Box 479 (zip code 29442)  
401 Cleland St. (zip code 29440)  
Georgetown, South Carolina  
Telephone: (843) 545-3030  
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January 10, 2014

The Honorable Daniel E. Shearouse  
Clerk of Court, S.C. Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 11330  
Columbia, SC 29211

Rosalyn W. Frierson, Director  
Court Administration, S.C. Judicial Department  
1015 Sumter St., Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201-3739

RE: *Stephen C. Stanko v. State of South Carolina*  
Case Number: 2014-CP-26-035

Dear Ms. Frierson and Mr. Shearouse:

The above referenced action for post-conviction relief (PCR) is assigned to me pursuant to the Supreme Court order dated 11/7/2013. That order provides that I was to conduct a hearing on the applicant's desire for an attorney within 30 days of the date of the order and issue a scheduling order in this PCR action within 60 days of the Supreme Court Order dated 11/7/2013. However, the PCR action was not filed until 1/6/2014. Therefore, the deadlines set for a hearing regarding the applicant's desire for an attorney and the issuance of a scheduling order could not be met.

Please be advised that I will conduct a hearing regarding the applicant's desire for an attorney within 30 days of the filing of this PCR action and will issue a scheduling order in this case within 60 days of its filing.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

Benjamin H. Culbertson

The Honorable Daniel E. Shearouse  
Rosalyn W. Frierson, Director  
January 10, 2014  
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BHC/bhc

pc: Hon. Melanie Huggins-Ward, Horry County Clerk of Court  
Robert M. Dudek, Chief Appellate Defender  
Emily C. Paavola, Esquire  
Joshua L. Thomas, Assistant Attorney General  
Jimmy A. Richardson, Solicitor

Stephen C. Stanko, #6022  
Lieber Correctional Institution  
P.O. Box 205  
Ridgeville, SC 29472



State of South Carolina  
The Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

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January 10, 2014

Via Email and U.S. Mail Delivery

Robert M. Dudek, Chief Appellate Defender  
S.C. Commission on Indigent Defense  
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Columbia, SC 29211-1589

Email: RDudek@sccid.sc.gov

Emily C. Paavola, Esquire  
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Death Penalty & Defense Center  
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Columbia, SC 29211

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Anthony Mabry, Asst. Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
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Jimmy A. Richardson, Solicitor  
Office of the Solicitor, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
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Conway, SC 29528

Email: richj@horrycounty.org  
psnowden@horrycounty.org

RE: *Stephen C. Stanko, #6022 v. State of South Carolina*  
Case Number: 2014-CP-26-035

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the order of the S.C. Supreme Court dated 11/7/2013 and S.C. Code Annotated §17-27-160, I have scheduled a hearing regarding the applicant's desire to counsel in the above referenced PCR action for 2/3/2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Florence City/County Complex in Florence, SC.

Robert M. Dudek, Chief Appellate Defender  
Emily C. Paavola, Esquire  
Lindsey Vann, Esquire  
Anthony Mabry, Asst. Attorney General  
Jimmy A. Richardson, Solicitor

January 10, 2014  
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I apologize for any inconvenience in scheduling this hearing in Florence but, I am assigned to that county that week. My schedule does not permit the scheduling of a hearing any sooner and I must have counsel appointed (or at least have a hearing on the issue) within 30 days of the filing of this action.

Ms. Paavola has agreed to serve as lead counsel for the applicant in this case but, to date, has not been appointed. She has suggested appointment of Lindsey Vann, an attorney in Ms. Paavola's office, as co-counsel for the applicant. If you consent to the appointment of Ms. Paavola as lead counsel in this case and the appointment of Lindsey Vann as co-counsel, please sign the enclosed consent and return it to me. If I receive consents from everyone involved in the PCR case prior to 2/3/2014, then a hearing will not be necessary. Otherwise, if you are involved in this case, you will need to appear at the hearing on the applicant's desires regarding counsel.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

  
Benjamin H. Culbertson

BHC/bhc

Enclosures (a/s)

pc: Hon. Daniel E. Shearouse, Clerk of Court, S.C. Supreme Court  
Rosaly W. Frierson, Director, S.C. Court Administration  
Hon. Melanie Huggins-Ward, Horry County Clerk of Court

Stephen C. Stanko, #6022  
Lieber Correctional Institution  
P.O. Box 205  
Ridgeville, SC 29472

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )

COUNTY OF HORRY )

Stephen C. Stanko, #6022, )

Petitioner, )

vs. )

State of South Carolina, )

Respondent. )

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CASE NUMBER: 2014-CP-26-035

CONSENT TO APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

The undersigned hereby consents to the following appointments of counsel for the petitioner in this case:

Lead Counsel: Emily C. Paavola, Esquire  
Death Penalty & Defense Center  
P.O. Box 11311  
Columbia, SC 29211

Co-Counsel: Lindsey Vann, Esquire  
Death Penalty & Defense Center  
P.O. Box 11311  
Columbia, SC 29211

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Type or Print: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_