

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

APPEAL FROM HORRY COUNTY

Appellate Case No. 2026-002266

Ruth Le May,Appellant,

v.

Stuart M. AxelrodRespondent.

**RESPONDENT’S RETURN AND OPPOSITION
TO PETITIONER’S MOTION TO SUPPRESS
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Respondent Stuart M. Axelrod (“Respondent”), by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Return and Opposition to Petitioner Ruth Le May’s (“Petitioner”) Motion to Suppress Electronic Communications dated October 9, 2026. Respondent respectfully requests that this Court deny Petitioner’s Motion in its entirety, dissolve any temporary, implied, or sought administrative stays, and allow the underlying civil litigation to proceed. In support thereof, Respondent shows the Court the following:

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The underlying matter is a civil action seeking statutory liquidated damages, actual damages, punitive damages, and attorney's fees arising out of a brazen, intentional, and highly coordinated interspousal wiretapping, data exfiltration, and first-degree harassment scheme. The

primary actors in this conspiracy were Respondent's adverse, estranged spouse, Carla Ericson, and the Petitioner herein, Ruth Le May.¹

On October 9, 2026, Ericson filed with this Court an identical Motion to Suppress alleging interception of her electronic communications on an iPad, Appellate Case No. 2026-002242.² This Motion to Suppress filed by Petitioner LeMay is a cut and paste of the Motion filed by Ericson (filed three (3) minutes apart). Le May's Motion contains no allegations that Le May herself is an "aggrieved person" whose communications were intercepted. As such, there is no basis contained in the Motion filed by LeMay for any relief under SC Code §17-30-110 (A)(1), and the motion should therefore be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

This filing is sloppy, legally inadequate, made for purposes of harassment, delay and obstruction. It has accomplished all of the above. Further, it has cost Axelrod attorney' fees and costs.

Le May's counsel has filed a "limited" notice of appearance in the underlying matter in which he strains to spell out all the matters for which he does not represent Le May, and directs counsel to continue to serve Le May with most pleadings in the underling matter. As to the instant matter, the only thing counsel purports to represent Le May for is "appearance at Court of Appeals for Computer Crimes Act." **Exhibit A.** Counsel did not even agree to file this motion, but obviously did. Le May's bad faith is itself egregious, but counsel's behavior in the instant matter is frivolous and also in bad faith.

¹ Note Paragraph 7 of the complaint in the underlying matter, which describes Le May's vicious assault of Axelrod in his home on November 28, 2025, with Ericson videotaping the assault as it occurred.

² Staff for Le May's counsel filed both Motions (one for Ericson at 2:40 pm, a second one for Le May at 2:43) and served undersigned counsel via email on October 9, 2026. The Court of Appeals' sent electronic acknowledgements of both at 3:09 pm and 3:14 pm.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Respondent Stuart M. Axelrod respectfully requests that this Honorable Court:

1. DENY Petitioner Ruth Le May's Motion to Suppress Electronic Communications in its entirety;
2. DISSOLVE any temporary, pending, or implied administrative stays over Horry County Court of Common Pleas Case No. 2026-CP-26-05684;
3. AWARD Respondent the reasonable attorney's fees, expert costs, and expenses incurred in defending against this frivolous, dilatory motion; and
4. GRANT such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper. By way of suggestion, undersigned counsel asks the Court to consider sanctions be imposed upon both Le May and her counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Desa Ballard
Desa Ballard (S.C. Bar No. 498)
Law Offices of Desa Ballard
226 State Street
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone 803.796.9299
Facsimile 803.796.1066
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s/Steven M. Abrams
Steven M. Abrams (S.C. Bar No. 76230)
Abrams Cyber Law & Forensics, LLC
Post Office Box 305
Sullivans Island, SC 29482
Telephone 843.216.1100
steve@abramsforensics.com

ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT
October 20, 2026

Exhibit A

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
	)	
COUNTY OF HORRY	)	CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2026-CP-26-05684
	)	
Stuart M. Axelrod	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	NOTICE OF LIMITED APPEARANCE
	)	
	)	
Ruth Le May,	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned attorney hereby enters a **LIMITED APPEARANCE** in the above-captioned civil matter on behalf of Defendant Ruth Le May, pursuant to Rule 1.2(c) of the South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct.

1. Scope of Representation

This appearance is strictly limited in scope. The undersigned counsel is retained *only* for the following specific purpose(s):

- Drafting and filing an Amended Answer, if needed.
- Appearance at Court of Appeals for Computer Crimes Act.

2. Limitations of Appearance

This limited appearance **does not** constitute:

- A general appearance or full representation in this civil action.
- An obligation for the undersigned counsel to attend any other hearings, depositions, status conferences, or post-trial enforcement proceedings not explicitly listed above.
- A waiver of any jurisdictional defenses, service objections, or substantive rights of the unrepresented or partially represented party.

3. Service and Contact Information

- All routine pleadings, notices, and correspondence in this action should continue to be served directly upon the client at their address below, *except* for matters strictly pertaining to the limited scope outlined above, which shall be served on the undersigned counsel:

Ruth Le May
526 Redwood Avenue
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
ruthlemay@me.com
843-333-2566

Respectfully submitted,

VON HERRMANN LAW FIRM, LLC

/s/ William B. von Herrmann
William B. von Herrmann, SC Bar No: 15675
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT
212 Elm Street
Conway, South Carolina 29526
(843)-488-1030 / (843)-488-1035 (fax)
Bvhlaw00@gmail.com

October 12, 2026
Conway, South Carolina

RECEIVED
Oct 20 2026
SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

APPEAL FROM HORRY COUNTY

Appellate Case No. 2026-002266

Ruth Le May, Appellant,

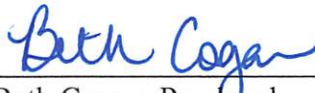
v.

Stuart M. Axelrod Respondent.

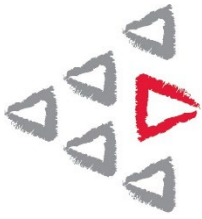
PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Beth Cogan, an employee with the Law Offices of Desa Ballard, do hereby certify that on October 20, 2026, I served a copy of the **Return to Motion to Suppress Electronic Communications**, in the above-captioned case on the following individuals by electronic mail using their email address listed in the Attorney Information System, addressed as follows:

William B. von Herrmann, Esquire
von Herrmann Law Firm
bvhlaw00@gmail.com


Beth Cogan, Paralegal

October 20, 2026



Law Offices of Desa Ballard

PERSISTENT. UNWAVERING.

Desa Ballard

226 State Street West Columbia, SC 29169
ph 803.796.9299 | fx 803.796.1066 | desaballard.com

October 20, 2026

Via Email (ctappfilings@sccourts.org)

The Honorable Jenny Abbot Kitchings
Court of Appeals Clerk of Court
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RECEIVED

Oct 20 2026

SC Court of Appeals

Re: *Ruth Le May v. Stuart M. Axelrod*
Appellate Case No.: 2026-002266

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Enclosed for filing, please find a Return to Motion to Suppress Electronic Communications and Proof of Service for the above-referenced matter. By copy of this letter and as evidenced by the Proof of Service, this filing has been served upon counsel for the Respondent. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

With warm personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

desab@desaballard.com

Enclosures

cc: Via Email
William B. von Herrmann, Esquire
Steve Abrams, Esquire
Stuart Axelrod, Esquire