



# The Supreme Court of South Carolina

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January 24, 2014

Mr. Efrain Thomas, 314836  
Lee Correctional Institution  
990 Wisacky Highway  
Bishopville SC 29010

Re: Efrain Thomas v. State  
Appellate Case No. 2013-000591

Dear Mr. Thomas:

This responds to your recent correspondence to Chief Justice Toal dated January 20, 2014, requesting that your counsel be required to raise additional questions in the petition for a writ of certiorari that she has filed. Since you represented by counsel, the only *pro se* motion that you can make in this matter is a motion to relieve counsel. *Miller v. State*, 388 S.C. 347, 697 S.E.2d 527 (2010); *Jones v. State*, 348 S.C. 13, 558 S.E.2d 517 (2002)<sup>1</sup>; *State v. Stuckey*, 333 S.C. 56, 508 S.E.2d 564 (1998); *Foster v. State*, 298 S.C. 306, 379 S.E.2d 907 (1989). Accordingly, no action will be taken on your *pro se* request.

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<sup>1</sup> "There is no constitutional right to hybrid representation either at trial or on appeal. *Foster v. State*, *supra*. At the appellate stage, particularly, succinct, relevant legal arguments are most likely to be persuasive. Counsel is best able to use professional judgment to determine which arguments are relevant and should be presented for appellate review. While counsel may choose to submit arguments urged by his client, counsel has an obligation to review those arguments for possible relevance and merit before submitting them."

I am forwarding a copy of your letter to your counsel so that she can be aware of your concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

CLERK

cc: Megan Elizabeth Harrigan, Esquire  
Lara Mary Caudy, Esquire (with copy of letter)