



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 13, 2011

VIA HAND-DELIVERY

The Honorable Daniel E. Shearouse
Clerk, S.C. Supreme Court
Post Office Box 11330
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RECEIVED
OCT 13 2011
S.C. Supreme Court

RE: Stacy W. Howard v. State of South Carolina
Informal Return to Johnson Petition for Writ of Certiorari

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

I am in receipt of the Johnson Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the above-referenced post-conviction relief appeal. The State wishes to waive the filing of a formal Return in light of the position taken by Petitioner's counsel in this matter. Thus, it is State's position that there is probative evidence in the record to support the rulings of the PCR court. However, by filing this informal Return, the State does not wish to waive its right to brief any issue should the Court grant certiorari.

The State has no objection to opposing counsel's Petition to be Relieved as Counsel.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 734-3713 should there be any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christina J. Catoe
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure: (original and six copies)

cc: LaNelle C. DuRant, Esquire
Division of Appellate Defense
Post Office Box 11589
Columbia, South Carolina 29211