



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 25, 2012

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

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S.C. Supreme Court

**Re: Phillip Antonio Byrd v. State of South Carolina
2010-CP-23-2961**

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

I am in receipt of the Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the above-captioned case which has been filed pursuant to the procedure set forth in Johnson v. State, 294 S.C. 310, 364 S.E.2d 201 (1988). Please accept this letter in lieu of a formal return. The Respondent has no objection to the Petition of LaNelle C. DuRant Esquire to be relieved as counsel.

If a formal return is required, the Respondent requests an opportunity to brief the issues as requested by the Court.

If there are any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Karen C. Ratigan
Assistant Deputy Attorney General

KCR/jacc

cc: Lanelle C. DuRant, Esquire