

BERKELEY COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

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March 12, 2014

RECEIVED
MAR 14 2014
SC Court of Appeals

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

RE: State of South Carolina vs. William E. Fritz
Appellate Case No. 2014-000303

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

After providing your office with Notice of Appeal in the above referenced matter, a letter dated February 27, 2014 was sent to me from your office requesting an explanation for the basis of the appeal. Subsequently, an Amended Notice of Appeal explaining the basis for filing the appeal was served on Berkeley County Solicitor and the original was forwarded to your office. After forwarding the Amended Notice, my paralegal has spoken to your office and has since learned that the explanation should be in a form of a letter.

Therefore, in compliance with Appellate Practice Rule 203 (d) (1) B (iv), the Defendant's attorney asserts that this appeal is being filed on the grounds that the Defendant was charged with multiple crimes, including Burglary. The Defendant agreed to plead guilty to one of the crimes, Property Crime Enhancement. The property crime was unrelated to the Burglary. Defense counsel became aware that the State wished for the victim of the Burglary to speak at Defendant's sentencing for Property Crime Enhancement. Defense Counsel objected, with the basis that the alleged victim of the Burglary has no standing to speak when the Defendant was not admitting guilt on the Burglary charge. The Sentencing Judge overruled the objection and heard the statements of the victim over the Defendant's objection. Defendant believes that the victim of an alleged crime that is being dismissed does not have standing to speak about sentencing of the Defendant when the Defendant is not pleading to the crime relating to the alleged victim.

I hope this information is sufficient to move forward with the appeal.

If you have any questions, or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cody J. Groeber', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cody J. Groeber
Berkeley County Public Defender

CJG:avs

cc: E. Mason West, Esquire
Salley W. Elliott, Esquire
Robert Michael Dudek, Esquire

Berkeley County Public Defender
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Moncks Corner, S. C. 29461

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