



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 16, 2014

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

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S.C. Supreme Court

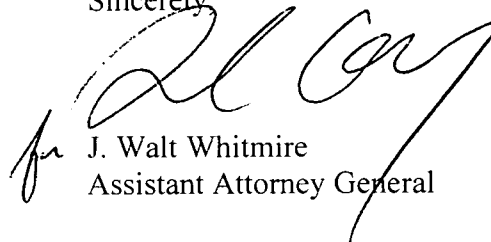
**Re: Ann Smith v. State
Appellate Case No. 2013-001171
Trial Court Case No. 2011-CP-32-4590**

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

I am in receipt of the Petition for Writ of Certiorari in the above-captioned post-conviction relief (PCR) case. Please accept this letter in lieu of a formal return. At the PCR hearing, the State consented to a belated appeal pursuant to Austin v. State based upon information provided by the prior PCR attorney. Accordingly, the Respondent consents to the Petition for Writ of Certiorari.

If a formal return is required to either this Petition or the Johnson Petition, the Respondent requests an opportunity to brief any issue requested by the Court. If there are any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


J. Walt Whitmire
Assistant Attorney General

JWW/tb

cc: Kathrine H. Hudgins, Esquire