

LAW OFFICE OF



TARA DAWN SHURLING, PA

Attorney and Counselor at Law

3614 Landmark Drive

Suite A

Columbia, South Carolina 29204

(803) 738-8622

(Fax) (803) 738-1600

E-Mail: tdslaw@shurlinglaw.com

December 29, 2014

RECEIVED

JAN 02 2015

S.C. Supreme Court

The Honorable Daniel E. Shearouse
Clerk of Court of South Carolina Supreme Court
Post Office Box 11330
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1330

RE: Otis James Compton, 262807 v. State of South Carolina; 2008-CP-01-00085.
Appellate Case No. 2010-155114

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

Enclosed is my SCCID Voucher for my work on this court-appointment. I also enclose a copy of my time records and expense receipts for your convenient reference. Since my total bill is over the \$1,000.00 cap for fees on PCR matters, SCCID will not pay this voucher without approval from the Court. In circuit court cases, that means I have to get an order approving the total fees submitted. In my last appointed appeal, the Supreme Court issued an order directing SCCID to pay my attorney fees and expenses. Prior to that appeal, I believe the Court had always taken the position that your signature on the voucher was all I required. Because it makes it so much easier to get paid, I am requesting that the Court issue an Order instructing SCCID to pay my fees totaling \$1,480.00 and my in-house expenses totaling \$261.65.

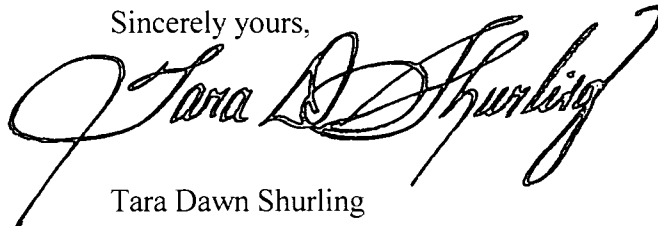
I was appointed in this case before SCCID began getting a proviso included in the payment legislation requiring advance approval of fees and expenses over the caps set by statute. This client was tried for Murder, Burglary in the First Degree, Armed Robbery, Malicious Injury to Property, and Possession of a Firearm or Knife during the Commission of a Violent Crime. He was found guilty as charged and sentenced to life without parole pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §17-25-45 for the murder, burglary, and armed robbery charges, thirty days imprisonment for the malicious injury charge, and five years imprisonment, to be served consecutively, on the weapon charge. I have been representing Mr. Compton on appeal since I was appointed in this matter in September, 2010.

My in-house expenses totaled \$261.65, which is under the \$500.00 cap. These expenses include mileage, in-house copies, postage, having the binding cut off the transcript at Kinko's, and WestLaw

charges for research in this case. I *did not* bill for paralegal time or for time spent on this case by my former associate, Christina Parnell, although the billing records reflect that I paid them both for some time expended in this case. SCCID has already paid for the printing bill for the Appendix in the amount of \$998.15. The Certiorari Petition, Reply to Respondent's Return and the briefs for the belated appeal were all printed in-house at my firm. Based on past experience, I believe SCCID is likely to refuse to pay my expenses unless they are approved by the Court. I enclose a stamped return envelope for your convenience in returning this voucher/timesheets and any order the Court might issue to me. I will, of course, be happy to submit proposed orders for the payment of fees and expenses if the Court wishes. The only reason I have not included proposed order with this request is the fact that, in my experience, the Court will request proposed orders if they are desired. Thank you again for your time in reviewing this submission. I believe my total fees and expenses are more than reasonable for a PCR murder appeal that I have had for slightly over four (4) years. My fees for the appeal would obviously have been much higher had I not been able to draw on the extensive work I did on this case in the circuit court.

I am sorry to have to trouble you with this. I hope you and your family had a lovely Christmas. I wish you a blessed New Year and remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tara Dawn Shurling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T" and "S".

Tara Dawn Shurling
Attorney and Counselor at Law

TDS/sm

Enclosures

cc: Hugh Ryan, Deputy Director, SCCID