



BLUESTEIN · NICHOLS · THOMPSON · DELGADO LLC  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

March 13, 2015

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**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

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

**S.C. SUPREME COURT**

Re: Skipper v. ACE Property and Casualty Insurance Company  
Case Tracking No. 2014-001979

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

I represent the plaintiffs in this case. I have attached 15 copies of this original letter. I am asking that you treat this letter as my response to the amicus brief.

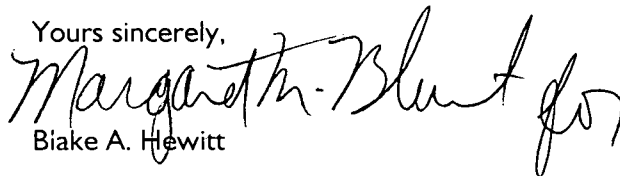
The amicus brief is a "me too" brief that regurgitates the position the defendants took in the District Court. I assume that the defendants will offer many of these same arguments in their briefs to this Court. The defendants have not filed their briefs yet.

This similarity is not surprising. The lead counsel for ACE Insurance Company is also the current president of the organization that submitted the amicus brief. The brief is openly partisan and many of its averments are conclusory platitudes. It is not from a friend of the court. It is from a friend of a party and it should be viewed as such.

This Court has a policy of freely-accepting amicus briefs, but if this brief had been conditionally filed along with the motion seeking its acceptance, I would have objected. It adds no substance to the issue under consideration, although it does strike me as odd that South Carolina defense lawyers would want to do anything that gives the appearance of protecting out-of-state attorneys who provided representation that was horribly deficient. My statement is biased, but at this stage, we must apply the narrative that is favorable to the plaintiffs.

Rather than burden the Court with an additional brief to read, the plaintiffs will deal with these same arguments after the defendants have included them in their briefs.

Yours sincerely,



Blake A. Hewitt

cc: Mark B. Tinsley, Esquire  
Ronald K. Wray, II, Esquire  
Robert H. Hood, Jr., Esquire  
David C. Marshall, Esquire

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