

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY

Court of Common Pleas

R. Markley Dennis, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2013-001273

South Carolina Public Interest Foundation and Waring S. Howe, Jr., individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Petitioners,

v.

James H. "Jay" Lucas, in his official capacity as Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Hugh K. Leatherman, in his official capacity as President of the South Carolina Senate, Representative Peter M. McCoy, Jr., Senator George E. "Chip" Campsen, and the State of South Carolina, Respondents.

**SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF
PETITION TO RECALL THE REMITTITUR**

James G. Carpenter, S.C. Bar No. 1136
819 E. North Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601
(864) 235-1269
Attorney for Petitioners

Other Counsel of Record:
C. Mitchell Brown, S.C. Bar No. 012872
Michael J. Anzelmo, S.C. Bar No. 72933
P.O. Box 11070
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 255-9595; -9312

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Attorneys for Respondent Lucas

Robert E. Tyson, Jr., S.C. Bar No. 10820
P.O. Box 11449
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 231-7838
Attorney for Respondent McCoy

John P. Hazzard V, S.C. Bar No. 9579
Kenneth M. Moffett, and
Edward Houseal Bender
P.O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 212-6300; -6610
Attorneys for Respondents Leatherman and Campsen

J. Emory Smith, Jr., S.C. Bar No. 5262
PO Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 734-3680
Attorney for Respondent State of S.C.

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Petitioners South Carolina Public Interest Foundation and Waring S. Howe, Jr., submit this Supplemental Memorandum of Law in Support of their Petition to recall the Remittitur in this action, and to address precisely when the appellate court is divested of jurisdiction in favor of the lower court, and to respectfully suggest that when the Petitioners filed a Petition to Recall the Remittitur, jurisdiction was still vested in the Court of Appeals.

On Wednesday, August 19, 2015, Petitioners mailed a Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the Supreme Court with a Certificate of Service by mail to the Court of Appeals and to counsel for all Respondents. Petitioners also served all counsel for the Respondents by email.

On Thursday, August 20, 2015, the undersigned counsel received from the Court of Appeals a copy of the Remittitur to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Charleston County. On August 20, 2015, the undersigned counsel also filed and served copies of the Petition to Recall the Remittitur, by mail and email.

On Friday, August 21, 2015, the undersigned counsel telephoned the Clerk of Court for Charleston County and learned that the Remittitur had not arrived, nor had it been filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Charleston County, nor had the Clerk of Court acted upon the Remittitur. On that day, Petitioners also served a copy of the Petition to Recall the Remittitur on the Clerk of Court for Charleston County by mail and email.

South Carolina case law appears to hold that the operative act that transfers jurisdiction from the appellate court to that Circuit Court is the filing of the Remittitur in the Circuit Court, and/or the Circuit Court acting on the Remittitur. This rule seems to go back more than 100 years. In *State v. Keels*, the Supreme Court ruled, “[I]t is more than questionable whether this court has the power to recall the remittitur after it has been sent

down to the Circuit Court and acted upon by that court.” *Id.* 39 S.C. 553, 17 S.E.2d 802, 803 (1893) (emphasis added).

In *Christy v. Christy*, the Court of Appeals ruled, “The final disposition of the case occurs when the remittitur is returned by the clerk of the appellate court and filed in the lower court. Until that time, the case is pending on appeal. . . . We therefore conclude an order of the lower court is effective until superseded or until the remittitur is filed in lower court.” *Id.* 317 S.C. 145, 151, 452 S.E.2d 1, 4 (Ct. App. 1995) (citations omitted, emphasis added).

In *Brackenbrook North Charleston, LP v. County of Charleston*, the Supreme Court of South Carolina ruled, “Jurisdiction over the case vests in the Circuit Court upon receipt of the remittitur from the appellate court.” *Id.* 366 S.C. 503, 508, 623 S.E.2d 91, 93 (2005) (emphasis added). Again the Court ruled, “Appellants contend that upon receipt of the remittitur, the Circuit Court was vested with authority We agree.” *Id.* (emphasis added).

In *Harleysville Mut. Ins. Co. v. State*, the Supreme Court ruled, “An opinion of an appellate court is not final until the remittitur is filed in the lower court.” *Id.* 401 S.C. 15, 23, n. 2, 736 S.E.2d 651, 655 n. 2 (2012) (emphasis added).

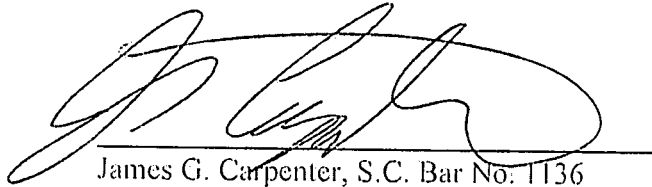
By way of contrast, in *Wise v. South Carolina Department of Corrections*, “The remittitur was sent to the lower court by order dated October 30, 2006. On December 28, 2006, appellant filed a motion for enlargement of time in this Court.” 372 S.C. 173, 173-74, 642 S.E.2d 551 (2007) (emphasis added). In *Wise*, almost 2 months passed between the Remittitur and the motion. The Supreme Court had no trouble ruling that the jurisdictional opportunity had long since passed.

CONCLUSION

In the case at bar, the Circuit Court had not received or acted upon the Remittitur when the Petitioners filed and served their Petition to recall it. The Petition to Recall the Remittitur is timely.

WHEREFORE, Petitioners pray the Court to recall the Remittitur in this action, to enable the Petitioners to have the South Carolina Supreme Court consider their Petition for Writ of Certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. G. Carpenter', is written over a horizontal line.

James G. Carpenter, S.C. Bar No: 1136
THE CARPENTER LAW FIRM, PC
819 E. North Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601
(864) 235-1269
Attorneys for Petitioners

August 24, 2015

Certificate of Service

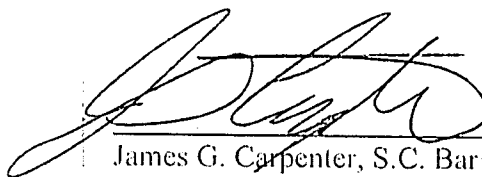
The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that he has served a copy of the foregoing Supplemental Memorandum of Law in Support of Petition to Recall the Remittitur on counsel for Respondents by email and US Mail, postage prepaid, on Monday, August 24, 2015 addressed as follows:

C. Mitchell Brown
Michael J. Anzelmo
P.O. Box 11070
Columbia, SC 29211

Robert E. Tyson, Jr.
PO Box 11449
Columbia, SC 29211

J. Emory Smith, Jr.
PO Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

Edward Bender
Ken Moffitt
P.O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202



James G. Carpenter, S.C. Bar No. 1136
THE CARPENTER LAW FIRM, P.C.
819 E. North Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601
Tel. (864) 235-1269
Fax (864) 331-3083
Attorneys for Petitioners

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