



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 13, 2016

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2016

SC SUPREME COURT

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

RE: Jeffery Lee Moore v State of South Carolina –
Appellate Case No. 2015-000889

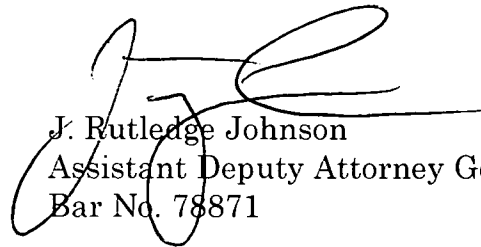
Dear Mr. Shearouse:

Petitioner, Jeffery Lee Moore filed a Motion to Relieve Counsel in the above-referenced PCR appeal. Please accept this letter as the State's return to Mr. Moore's motion.

Regarding Mr. Moore's request to relieve his appellate counsel, the State wishes to leave the matter to the sound discretion of this Court. However, the State notes Mr. Moore has no inherent right to represent himself in his direct criminal appeal. See State v. Roberts, 364 S.C. 583, 588, 614 S.E.2d 626, 629 (2005) ("Appellant clearly does not have a federal constitutional right to proceed pro se in this appeal from his criminal conviction. We also find there is no state constitutional provision which confers such a right."). Additionally, the State notes Mr. Moore is currently represented by Appellate Defender Katherine Hudgins, who is highly skilled and experienced. Furthermore, the State notes Mr. Moore's appellate counsel has filed a Johnson Petition For Writ of Certiorari, asking the Court to be relieved and Mr. Moore will have the opportunity to respond to the Johnson petition to address his issues.

If a more formal return is desired by this Court, the State will promptly provide one upon request. Thank you, and if you should have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (803) 734-3737.

Sincerely,



J. Rutledge Johnson
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Bar No. 78871

JRJ/jjh

cc: Katherine Haggard Hudgins, Esquire
Jeffery Lee Moore, SCDC#: 263267
Victim Services