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January 15, 2016

Mr. Willie Ritter, SCDC # 00337044
C/O LEE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
990 Wisacky Highway
Bishopville, SC 29010

COPY


Re: PCR appeal – State of SC v. Willie Ritter, #337044
Case No: 2014-CP-40-05384

Dear Willie:

I have enclosed a Motion to Be Relieved as Counsel in regards to your PCR appeal which I would ask that you consent to and return to me in the self-addressed envelope enclosed. As we discussed on my last visit to see you, I have filed your Notice of Intent to appeal the PCR decision made by Judge Cooper in Richland County in order to preserve your time. However, since you have not yet hired me to handle the appeal and you were denied representation by the SC Office of Indigent Defense, I need to withdraw as counsel on this case before it moves to the next phase of the appeal process since I have not been retained for representation on this matter.

I will request that the Court allow you some additional time to find counsel should you wish to continue to pursue this appeal. Please let me know how you want to move forward with this matter as soon as possible since we are under time constraints.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing back from you at your earliest convenience so that I can file the appropriate documents either way. Thank you.

Sincerely,
VON HERRMANN LAW FIRM

William B. von Herrmann

WBvH/wss
Enclosures

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Supreme Court

APPEAL FROM RICHLAND COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

G. Thomas Cooper, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2014-CP-40-05384

State of South Carolina

Respondent,

v.

Willie Ritter, #337044,

Appellant.

MOTION TO BE RELIEVED AS COUNSEL

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that William B. von Herrmann, the attorney of record for the Appellant, will move the Court for an Order permitting him to be relieved as counsel for the Appellant, Willie Ritter. This Motion is based upon the following facts:

1. William B. von Herrmann was hired by the Appellant to represent him regarding his Post Conviction Relief hearing which was held in Richland County on July 15, 2015;
2. Attorney von Herrmann met with the Appellant after receiving the Order from Judge G. Thomas Cooper, Jr. denying the PCR request and informed Appellant Ritter of the Judge's decision. It was decided that Attorney von Herrmann would file the Notice of Appeal on behalf of the Appellant in order to preserve his time for the appeal, but he may or may not represent Mr. Ritter throughout the appeal process;
3. The Notice of Appeal was sent to the Courts and also copied to Appellant Ritter and the S.C. Commission on Indigent Defense on November 24, 2015 and clocked with the S.C. Supreme Court on November 25, 2015 (copies of Notice and letters attached as Exhibit A);

4. Attorney von Herrmann received the Affidavit of Indigency from SCCID (S.C. Commission on Indigent Defense) on December 7, 2015 and forwarded the same to Appellant Ritter (copy of letter to Appellant Ritter attached as Exhibit B);
5. Appellant Ritter was not approved for representation by the SCCID and Attorney von Herrmann was notified of the same on or about 4 January 2016 via email from Paula Murdoch with the SCCID office (copy of email attached as Exhibit C);
6. To date, Attorney von Herrmann has not been hired to represent Mr. Ritter on the PCR appeal.

For the foregoing reasons, William B. von Herrmann, attorney of record for Appellant Willie Ritter, hereby moves to be relieved as counsel in this matter.

THE VON HERRMANN LAW FIRM

William B. von Herrmann
216 Elm Street, The Kimber Building
Conway, South Carolina 29526
(843)-488-1030
Attorney for Appellant

I CONSENT:

Willie Ritter, Appellant
SCDC No: 00337044

Dated: _____, 2016