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Robert M. Dudek, Chief Appellate Defender  
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April 7, 2016

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

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APR - 7 2016

SC SUPREME COURT

Re: The State v. Ricky Lee Blackwell, Appellate Case No. 2014-000610

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

The above-referenced case is scheduled for oral argument on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at 9:30 AM, with time limits of 20-20-10. With the Court's permission, counsel for appellant would like to split the argument such that co-counsel David Alexander will argue issues related to Atkins v. Virginia, 536 U.S. 304 (2002), and I will argue all other issues in the case. I would like to allocate the first twelve (12) minutes of our time for my argument and the remaining eight (8) minutes to Mr. Alexander's Atkins argument. I will make the entire reply argument. I conferred with Ms. Brown this afternoon and she has no objection. If the Court is not inclined to allow counsel to split the argument, I would ask that you inform us as soon as possible so that we may prepare accordingly.

As the Court is aware, two issues on appeal involve matters that are under seal. I plan to address the content of the matters under seal during my argument. If the Court is inclined to close the courtroom for the argument, I would ask that you let us know the Court's decision so that we can inform potential attendees.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Dudek  
Chief Appellate Defender

cc: Melody J. Brown, Esquire  
Patricia Standaert Ravenhorst, Esquire  
Meliah Bowers Jefferson, Esquire  
Client