



State of South Carolina
The Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

Benjamin H. Culbertson
Resident Circuit Judge

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May 13, 2016

The Honorable Daniel E. Shearouse
Clerk of Court, S.C. Supreme Court
P.O. Box 11330
Columbia, SC 29211

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2016

Rosalyn W. Frierson, Director
Court Administration, S.C. Judicial Department
1220 Senate St., Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201-3739

S.C. SUPREME COURT

RE: *Stephen C. Stanko v. State of South Carolina*
Case Number: 2014-CP-26-035

Dear Ms. Frierson and Mr. Shearouse:

Pursuant to the Supreme Court order dated 11/7/2013 regarding the above referenced capital PCR action, I provide the following status of this case:

1/6/2014: The application for post-conviction relief is filed with the clerk of court for Horry County, SC.

2/4/2014: Emily C. Paavola is appointed lead counsel and Lindsey Vann is appointed second counsel for the applicant by order dated 2/4/2014.

2/21/2014: Status conference held in judge's chambers at Horry County Judicial Center. Emily C. Paavola, Lindsey S. Vann and Anthony Mabry attended the status conference.

A scheduling order was issued.

4/2/2014: The court issues its order setting this case for date-certain trial to commence 11/3/2014.

- 4/29/2014: The court issued an Amended Scheduling Order. This Amended Scheduling Order rescinded the order setting of this case for date-certain trial commencing 11/3/2014.
- 6/16/2014: Applicant amends Application for Post-Conviction Relief.
- 7/10/2014: State files Return to Amended Application for Post-Conviction Relief and Motion to Dismiss.
- 9/25/2014: Court issues order setting the case for date-certain trial commencing 3/2/2015 and amending scheduling order to extend deadline for completing discovery.

Court issues order denying Respondent's Motion to Dismiss without a trial.
- 10/1/2014: Applicant files Final Amended Application For Post-Conviction Relief.
- 10/31/2014: Respondent files Return to Final Amended Application For Post-Conviction Relief and Motion to Dismiss.
- 12/11/2014: Respondent's Motion to Dismiss Final Amended Application is denied by Form 4 order without oral arguments.
- 1/8/2015: Applicant files Motion For Continuance.
- 1/12/2015: Respondent files Motion to Unseal Ex Parte Funding Requests.
- 1/22/2015: Respondent files Motion to Take Depositions.
- 2/24/2015: Applicant files Motion for Summary Judgment.
Applicant files Motion *In Limine*.
- 2/27/2015: By Form 4 order, Applicant's Motion For Continuance, Motion for Summary Judgment and Motion *In Limine* are denied without oral arguments.

By Form 4 order, Respondent's Motion to Unseal Ex Parte Funding Requests is granted without oral arguments.
- 3/2/2015 – 3/3/2015: Trial.

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5/13/2016: Court issues Order Denying Post-Conviction Relief.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,



Benjamin H. Culbertson

BHC/bhc

pc: Hon. Melanie Huggins-Ward, Horry County Clerk of Court
Emily C. Paavola, Esquire
Lindsey S. Vann, Esquire
Anthony Mabry, Asst. Attorney General
Donald J. Zelenka, Asst. Attorney General
Caroline M. Scranton, Asst. Attorney General
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