

ALAN WILSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



RECEIVED

OCT 24 2012

S.C. Supreme Court

October 24, 2012

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

RE: State v. John B. Campbell – Court of Appeals Appellate Case No. 2009-136346

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

On October 17, 2012, Appellant John B. Campbell filed a Motion to Relieve Counsel in the above-referenced criminal appeal. Please accept this letter as the State's return to Mr. Campbell's motion.

Regarding Mr. Campbell'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. Campbell 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. Campbell is currently represented by Appellate Defender Kathrine H. Hudgins, who is highly skilled and experienced. Furthermore, the State notes Mr. Campbell's appellate counsel has already filed an appellate brief, participated in an oral argument, and filed a petition for rehearing on Mr. Campbell's behalf in this case and has indicated an intention to file a petition for a writ of certiorari on Mr. Campbell's behalf. Finally, the State notes Mr. Campbell did not identify any specific supporting grounds warranting the removal of his appellate counsel in his motion requesting such relief.

If a more formal return is desired by this Court, the State will promptly provide one upon request. Thanks, and if you should have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (803) 734-3727.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MRF' with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark R. Farthing  
Assistant Attorney General  
Bar No. 76901

MRF/

cc: Kathrine H. Hudgins, Esquire  
John B. Campbell, Inmate #228072  
Victim Services