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SC SUPREME COURT

ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 7, 2016

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

RE: Randolph Ashford v. State of South Carolina
Appellate Case No. 2015-002509
Johnson motion for relief of counsel and *pro se* motion for replacement of counsel

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

Petitioner, Randolph Ashford, filed a document that the State interprets as, at its core, a motion for appointment of counsel outside of the South Carolina Division of Appellate Defense. Additionally, Appellate Defender Tiffany L. Butler filed a motion to be relieved as part of her Johnson Petition for writ of certiorari in this matter. Please accept this letter as the State's return to both motions.

Regarding Mr. Ashford's request for outside appellate counsel, the State wishes to leave the matter to the sound discretion of this Court. Additionally, the State notes Mr. Ashford is currently represented by Appellate Defender Tiffany L. Butler, who is highly skilled and experienced, and the State knows of no reason to relieve Ms. Butler should this case go forward. However, the State does not oppose Ms. Butler's motion for relief as counsel insofar as it is combined with the dismissal of the petition for writ of certiorari.

If this Court desires a more formal return, the State will promptly provide one upon request. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 734-3737.

Sincerely,

Jessica E. Kinard
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Tiffany L. Butler, Esquire
Randolph Ashford, SCDC#: 256638
Victim Services