



South Carolina Court Administration
South Carolina Supreme Court
Columbia, South Carolina

ROSALYN FRIERSON
DIRECTOR

1220 SENATE STREET, SUITE 200
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1800
FAX: (803) 734-0259

June 14, 2016

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

In re: Quincy McCants v. State
Appellate Case No. 2015-002142
Lower Case No. 2009CP3204236

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

In response to your letter to Rosalyn Frierson dated June 10, 2016 regarding the transcript in this matter, I am sorry for the extreme delay in responding to Appellate Defense regarding this transcript. The court reporter, Ms. Rema Gantt Thomas is retired. When court reporters leave our employ, they are required to deliver their records to Court Administration. She delivered the records to me after her employment ended. Some of the more reliable retired court reporters are allowed to produce transcripts from their records. This is agreeable to us, since the individual who recorded the proceedings is always the best person to produce the transcript. When we received requests for her records, I would get the records from the warehouse and send them to her for production. Ms. Gantt Thomas produced requested transcripts from her records until she reached a point where she wished to discontinue this practice. Upon receipt of the inquiry from Appellate Defense, I contacted Ms. Gantt Thomas to determine if the records were still in her possession. At that time she indicated that she would check. I called her back yesterday, and I had to leave a voice message.

Upon receipt of your letter, I was directed to respond and explain the circumstances surrounding my failure to respond to Appellate Defense. From my investigation of the matter, it appears that the late letters were placed in a file for matters pertaining to retired court reporters, and I failed to follow up again after the initial follow up. I went to the warehouse yesterday to double check Ms. Gantt Thomas' remaining records on file with us. The CD for this date is not among the records that we have stored at the warehouse or in my office. I also contacted Ms. Bennett, who produces transcripts for retired court reporters, to ask that she double check her records. Ms. Bennett has advised that she does not have records for the month of August 2013. I have left two voice messages for Ms. Gantt Thomas yesterday and today. I will update this information for both you and Appellate Defense as soon as I get a response.

When requests for information regarding the status of the transcripts are received, my staff reviews the court reporter's report and responds to Appellate Defense. If it's not listed on the report, they send it to the court reporter for response. Going forward, we will copy Appellate Defense on the correspondence to the court reporter and then follow up if the court reporter hasn't responded by the end of the day. I apologize for the delay, and will do my best to ensure that every letter is handled in a more timely manner. Please feel free to contact me for information regarding court reporters and/or transcripts. I will be glad to assist in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

Desiree R. Allen
Court Reporter Manager

CC: Rosalyn W. Frierson, Office of Court Administration
Jenny Kitchings, Court of Appeals
Paula Murdoch, Office of Appellate Defense

Johnson, Janet

From: Shearouse, Daniel
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 6:07 PM
To: Johnson, Janet
Subject: FW: Quincy McCants v State
Attachments: image0998.pdf

Please put in your case. We do need to send a copy of this letter to the AG.

Dan

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen, Desiree
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 5:27 PM
To: Shearouse, Daniel
Cc: Kitchings, Jenny; Frierson, Rosalyn; Paula Murdoch
Subject: Quincy McCants v State

Good afternoon. Please see attached correspondence. Thank you.