



State of South Carolina  
Third Judicial Circuit

GEORGE C. JAMES, JR.  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

141 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 303  
POST OFFICE BOX 1716  
SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29151-1716  
TELEPHONE: (803) 436-2150  
FAX: (803) 436-2403  
E-Mail: gjamesj@sccourts.org

August 22, 2016

Ms. Janet Johnson  
Administrative Assistant  
Clerk of Court  
Supreme Court of South Carolina  
Post Office Box 11330  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

**RECEIVED**

AUG 24 2016

**S.C. SUPREME COURT**

RE: Robert Louis Garrett, Jr. v State of South Carolina  
(2012-CP-43-02007)

Dear Ms. Johnson:

I have received a copy of an order directing me to advise the Court as to whether F. Casey Cornwell has been formally relieved as counsel for Mr. Garrett. I will explain my knowledge of this situation in this letter. I am enclosing an email string that will hopefully help remove any confusion.

Of course, Mr. Cornwell was appointed to represent Mr. Garrett. In February, Assistant Attorney General Daniel Gourley sent the enclosed email to me expressing concern over the progress of several PCR cases in which Mr. Cornwell was involved. He sent the email to me because I was Common Pleas Administrative Judge at that time.

In response to Mr. Gourley's email, I advised Mr. Cornwell that he represented the listed applicants until he was formally relieved. I gave him a deadline of February 18, 2016 to make motions to be relieved, and I further instructed him to be present for the March term to argue any motions to be relieved. Judge Brooks Goldsmith presided over that term. His motion to be relieved in this case was dated February 16 and was filed February 23.

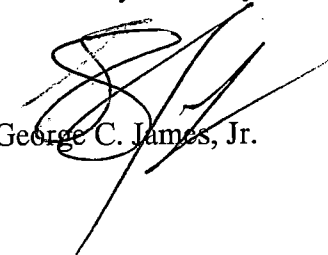
I spoke to Mr. Gourley today and he advised that the motion to be relieved was not put on the PCR roster for hearing by Judge Goldsmith during the March 14 term. I am not sure why it was not listed on the roster, but I assume it was because Mr. Cornwell had not filed his motion by the time Mr. Gourley had published the roster (keeping in mind my February 18 deadline, and the fact that the motion was filed on February 23).

My order dismissing this case was filed June 17, 2016. That is the order Mr. Garrett has now appealed. He is still represented by Mr. Cornwell because Mr. Cornwell has not yet been formally relieved. I am sure I have not verbally relieved Mr. Cornwell because my involvement with issues surrounding his representation of Mr. Garrett ended with my final email of February 12, 2016 directing Mr. Cornwell to be present during the March 14 term.

I am copying Mr. Gourley, Assistant Attorney Julie Coleman (she is now handling 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit PCR cases), and Judge Goldsmith with this letter just in case they have any pertinent information. I am also copying Mr. Garrett.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Yours very sincerely,



George C. James, Jr.

GCJjr:djf  
Enclosure

CC:  
Julie A. Coleman, Esquire  
Assistant Attorney General  
SC Attorney General's Office  
Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Daniel Gourley, Esquire  
Assistant Attorney General  
SC Attorney General's Office  
Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Robert Louis Garrett, #291096 SCDC  
Lee Correctional Institution RHU Cell 47  
990 Wisacky Hwy.  
Bishopville, South Carolina 29010

F. Casey Cornwell, Esquire  
Attorney at Law  
448 Deerwood Street, Unit 9-A  
Columbia, South Carolina 29205