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August 31, 2016

RECEIVED

AUG 31 2016

SC Court of Appeals

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings  
S.C. Court of Appeals  
PO Box 11629  
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: The State v. Joe Ross Worley, App. Case No.: 2014-001497

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Please allow this letter to serve as a response to the Attorney General's letter dated August 29, 2016. As an initial matter, I apologize for my misstatement about the location of the hearing. Mr. Aplin is correct, the hearing will be held in McCormick County on October 25th.

With respect to Mr. Aplin's second point, I too have no desire to gratuitously duplicate past efforts. However, no testimony was taken at the first reconstruction hearing held over five years ago. During the August 1st meeting with Judge Keesley and Assistant Solicitor Erwin Maye, the parties present agreed that testimony from Mr. Worley and Mr. Worley's defense attorneys was necessary and that, in the event testimony from the prosecutors was needed, another solicitor would question Mr. Maye and Mr. Myers. No representative from the Attorney General's Office attended the meeting. Accordingly, I considered the issue of whether a hearing needed to be held, settled.

I have no objection to the Attorney General Office's participation. I simply note that the Attorney General's Office should have made their objections to the method of reconstruction known to Judge Keesley at the August 1, 2016 scheduling conference so that this issue could have been addressed prior to the reconstruction hearing. Again, I apologize for my inaccuracy regarding the county where the hearing is to be held. Should the Court have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John H. Strom  
Appellate Defender

JHS/css

cc: The Honorable William P. Keesley  
Ervin J. Maye, Esquire  
J. Benjamin Aplin, Esquire