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November 22, 2016

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SC Court of Appeals

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

Re: The State v. William Craig Caughman
Appellate Case No. 2015-001867

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Pursuant to this Court's order dated August 11, 2016, undersigned counsel is providing this Court an update regarding the remand of the above-listed case. Please be aware that the delay in convening a reconstruction hearing in this matter was due to an oversight on my part. I neglected to email Judge Newman a copy of my August 22, 2016 letter while he was holding court away from his Chambers in Kingstree. Therefore, His Honor was unaware of the Remand Order until September.

Judge Newman held a reconstruction hearing on September 16, 2016. Mr. Caughman's trial counsel, H. Wayne Floyd, testified at the hearing as did lead prosecutor, Assistant Solicitor L. Suzanne Mayes. Judge Newman granted the parties additional time after the hearing to locate the defense's proposed jury instructions and to attempt to locate the original court reporter tapes.

On October 9, 2016, Judge Newman invited the parties to submit proposed orders within fifteen days and then provided counsels with three days after the submission of the proposed orders in which to comment on said orders. The parties submitted proposed orders on October 24, 2016. Neither Appellant nor the State commented on the others' orders by the October 27, 2016 deadline.

Letter to Hon. Jenny Kitchings

November 21, 2016

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On October 31, 2016, Judge Newman began presiding over former North Charleston Police Officer Michael Slager's murder trial. As of the date of this letter, that trial is ongoing. Accordingly, Judge Newman has not ruled on whether the record may be reconstructed. I will continue to update the Court on the status of remand per the August 11, 2016 order. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that the Court may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Strom". The signature is stylized with several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John H. Strom
Appellate Defender

JHS/css

cc: The Honorable Clifton B. Newman
J. Benjamin Aplin, Esq.
L. Suzanne Mayes, Esq.
H. Wayne Floyd, Esq.
William C. Caughman