

ORIGINAL

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE SUPREME COURT

Certiorari to Georgetown County

Jeffrey Young, Circuit Court Judge

RECEIVED
FEB 28 2017
S.C. SUPREME COURT

STEVEN C. STANKO,

PETITIONER,

V.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

RESPONDENT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2017-000211

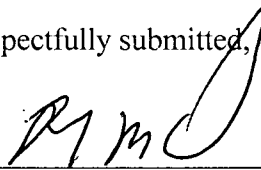
RETURN TO MOTION TO RELIEVE APPELLATE DEFENSE AND RETURN TO MOTION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

Undersigned counsel makes the following Return to the above-captioned motion:

- 1) Petitioner Steven Stanko is under a death sentence in both Georgetown and Horry Counties for two separate but close in time murders.
- 2) Undersigned counsel testified in the Horry County post-conviction relief case based on accusations of ineffective assistance of appellate counsel. He was found not to be ineffective following his testimony.

- 3) Petitioner Stanko was represented on appeal in the Georgetown County death penalty case by former Chief Appellate Defender Joseph L. Savitz, III, and Appellate Defender Kathrine Hudgins. The motion to relieve Appellate Defense states that Counsel Savitz testified during the Georgetown County PCR hearing, and that the court's order of dismissal "[m]akes specific lengthy findings regarding the issue of ineffective assistance of appellate counsel and denies relief on that basis on pages 75-86." Motion at 2.
- 4) Undersigned counsel does not wish to oppose the motion to relieve this office filed by his former client, Petitioner Steven Stanko, and he therefore leaves the matter to the sound discretion of this Court.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. Dudek
Chief Appellate Defender

February 28, 2017

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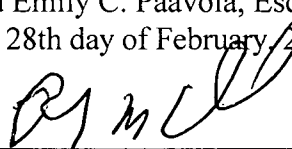
V.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that a true copy of the return to motion to relieve Appellate Defense and return to motion for appointment of counsel in the above-referenced case has been served upon opposing counsel, J. Anthony Mabry, Esquire, at the Rembert Dennis Building, 1000 Assembly Street, Room 519, Columbia, SC 29201, and Tristan Shaffer, Esquire at 225 Columbia Avenue, Chapin, SC 29036, and Emily C. Paavola, Esquire, at 900 Elmwood Avenue Suite 101, Columbia, SC 29201, this 28th day of February, 2017.



Robert M. Dudek
Chief Appellate Defender

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me
this 28th day of February, 2017.

 (L.S.)

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission Expires: November 3, 2026.