



ALAN WILSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 17, 2017

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**JUL 17 2017**

**S.C. SUPREME COURT**

The Honorable Daniel E. Shearouse  
Clerk, South Carolina Supreme Court  
Post Office Box 11330  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RE: Oscar Fortune v. State of South Carolina  
Appellate Case No. 2016-002231  
Motion for relief of counsel and to proceed *pro se*

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

I am in receipt of a letter from you addressed to myself and Wanda Carter, Esquire regarding a motion filed by Mr. Fortune to relieve Ms. Carter and proceed *pro se*. The State was not served with this motion; however, rather than object to improper service, the State responds as presented below. Please accept this letter as the State's return to the motion.

Regarding Mr. Fortune's request for relief of Ms. Carter, the State wishes to leave the matter to the sound discretion of this Court. The State notes Mr. Fortune is currently represented by the Deputy Chief Appellate Defender, who is highly skilled and experienced, and the State knows of no reason to relieve Ms. Carter should this case go forward. Furthermore, the State does not believe that the reasons Mr. Fortune cited for relief are legitimate, as a review of the submissions by Ms. Carter, including her pending motion for an amended petition for writ of certiorari, show a thorough understanding and assessment of the potential issues in this matter.

If this Court desires a more formal return, the State will promptly provide one upon request. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 734-3737.

Sincerely,

Jessica E. Kinard  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Wanda H. Carter, Esquire  
Oscar Fortune, SCDC# 314269  
Victim Advocacy Division