

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

ORIGINAL

Appeal from Lancaster County

RECEIVED

Honorable Brian M. Gibbons, Circuit Court Judge

JUL 31 2017

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

v.

JOHN M. GHENT, JR.,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2016-000643

PETITION FOR EXTENSION TO FILE
THE REPLY TO THE INITIAL BRIEF OF RESPONDENT

The undersigned counsel respectfully requests a **final ten-day extension, until August 10, 2017**, in which to file the reply to the initial brief of respondent in the above-referenced case. In support of this motion, counsel would respectfully show the Court the following extraordinary circumstances:

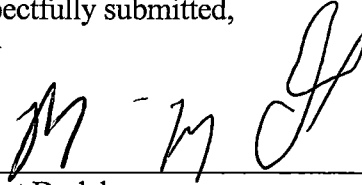
1. The reply to the initial brief of respondent is due to be served and filed today.
2. Counsel filed the initial brief of appellant and designation of matter in the case of The State v. Kevin Lee Boyter with this Court on July 26, 2017. Counsel filed the initial brief of appellant and designation of matter in the case of The State v. Crystal Garner with this Court on July 26, 2017. Counsel filed the petition for writ of certiorari and accompanying appendix in the case of Wallace Eugene Evatt, Jr. v. The State with the Supreme Court on July 24, 2017. Counsel filed the initial brief of appellant and designation of matter in the case of The State v. Kasey

Marie Gilbert with this Court on July 18, 2017. Counsel filed the brief of appellant pursuant to White v. State and the petition for writ of certiorari in the case of Shonta Helton v. The State with the Supreme Court on July 14, 2017. Counsel filed the petition for writ of certiorari and accompanying appendix in the case of The State v. Joshua Griffith with the Supreme Court on July 5, 2017. Counsel filed the initial brief of appellant and designation of matter in the case of The State v. Tekysha Cohen with this Court on June 30, 2017. Counsel filed the initial brief of appellant and designation of matter in the case of The State v. Jayquan Wilmore with this Court on June 29, 2017. Counsel filed the return to motion to stay the scheduling of a petition and return until consideration and ruling on petitioner's Rule 243(C), SCACR explanation in the death penalty case of Brad Keith Sigmon v. The State with the Supreme Court on June 23, 2017. Counsel filed the petition for stay of execution in the death penalty case of The State v. Ricky Lee Blackwell with the Supreme Court on June 15, 2017. Counsel filed the motion to unseal the briefs and the record on appeal in the death penalty case of The State v. Ricky Lee Blackwell with the Supreme Court on June 15, 2017. Counsel filed the initial brief of appellant and designation of matter in the case of The State v. Jacob Michael Hendricks with this Court on June 14, 2017. Counsel filed the initial brief of appellant and designation of matter in the case of In the Interest of: Dillon H., a Juvenile Under the Age of Seventeen with this Court on June 5, 2017. **Counsel has extensive administrative duties as the Chief Appellate Defender, including administrative and Appellate Project oversight, and training two less experienced appellate defenders and interviewing for open positions.**

3. This request is made in good faith, and not for purposes of delay. Counsel intends to continue to work on the cases with more than three extensions first so that the caseload will hopefully become more manageable in the near future, and less extensions will need to be requested.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned counsel would respectfully request a **final ten-day extension, until August 10, 2017**. Counsel respectfully requests that the time limits for filing the reply to the initial brief of respondent be held in abeyance pending a ruling on this motion.

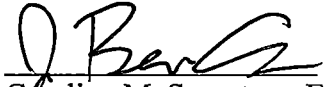
Respectfully submitted,



Robert Dudek
Chief Appellate Defender

July 31, 2017

I DO NOT OPPOSE:


Caroline M. Scrantom, Esquire