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4th AFB due 11/13/17

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

ORIGINAL

Appeal from Richland County
Clifton Newman, Circuit Court Judge

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2017
SC Court of Appeals
RESPONDENT

THE STATE,

v.

HORACE ELIJAH WATTS,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2017-000255

MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME
IN WHICH TO FILE THE INITIAL BRIEF OF APPELLANT
AND DESIGNATION OF MATTER

Counsel for Horace Elijah Watts respectfully requests an extension of **thirty (30) days, until December 13, 2017**, in which to file the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter in this case. This motion is made pursuant to the Order of the South Carolina Supreme Court dated March 18, 2009. This is a fourth request for an extension. In support of this request, counsel shows:

1. The initial brief of appellant and designation of matter are due to be filed with the Court today. The Court has granted counsel three previous extensions.
2. Counsel for Horace Elijah Watts respectfully submits that extraordinary circumstances exist which warrant the granting of an additional extension of time. Given the



number of extensions previously granted and the order in which counsel attempts to manage his caseload, counsel hopes that no further extension requests will be required.

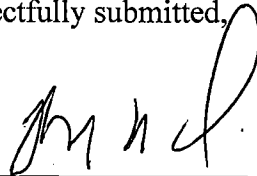
3. Counsel is preparing for an oral argument in the case of The State v. Elias J. Walker with the Supreme Court on November 15, 2017. Counsel had an oral argument in the case of The State v. Christina Reece with this Court on November 6, 2017. Counsel, along with co-counsel, David Alexander, filed the petition for writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court of the United States in the death penalty case of The State v. Ricky Lee Blackwell on October 27, 2017. Counsel filed the initial brief of appellant and designation of matter in the murder case of The State v. Deshanndon Markelle Franks with this Court on October 13, 2017. Counsel prepared a CLE presentation on the case law update for the Public Defender Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for September 25, 2017. Counsel also prepared two presentations for the Post-Conviction Relief workshop that was held on Friday, September 29, 2017 at the office of the Commission on Indigent Defense. Counsel filed the return to petition for writ of certiorari to the Court of Appeals in the case of The State v. Shannon Scott with the Supreme Court September 21, 2017. Counsel filed the brief of petitioner in the case of The State v. James Scott Cross with the Supreme Court on September 15, 2017. Counsel filed the petition for rehearing in the case of The State v. Robert Lee Moore with this Court on September 14, 2017. **Counsel has extensive administrative duties as the Chief Appellate Defender.**

4. Counsel makes this request in good faith and not for purpose 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.

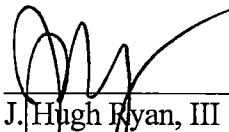
5. Counsel for the Attorney General's office consents to this request shown by signature below.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned counsel would respectfully request a **thirty (30) day extension, until December 13, 2017**, in which to file the initial brief of appellant and designation of matter in this case based upon the above exigent circumstances. Counsel requests that time limits for filing the brief be held in abeyance pending a ruling on this motion.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. Dudek
Chief Appellate Defender



J. Hugh Ryan, III
Executive Director/
Hervey B. O. Young
Deputy Director and General Counsel/
W. Lawrence Brown
Deputy General Counsel and Training
Director

This 13th day of November, 2017.

I consent:



for Donald Zelenka, Esquire