

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

The State, Respondent,

v.

Ricky Lee Blackwell, Appellant.

Appellate Case No. 2014-000610

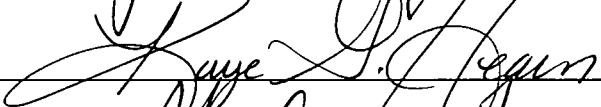
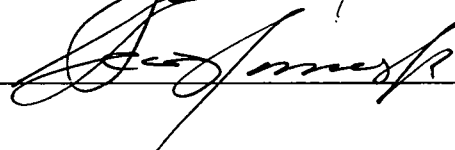
ORDER

Appellant was convicted of kidnaping and murder, and was sentenced to death. *State v. Blackwell*, 420 S.C. 127, 801 S.E.2d 713 (2017). On February 20, 2018, the United States Supreme Court denied appellant's petition for a writ of certiorari. Appellant now seeks a stay of execution, pursuant to *In re Stays of Execution in Capital Cases*, 321 S.C. 544, 471 S.E.2d 140 (1996), so that he can pursue post-conviction relief (PCR). The State does not oppose the motion.

The request for a stay of execution is granted. The stay shall remain in effect to the extent provided by this Court in *In re Stays of Execution in Capital Cases*.

The Honorable Daniel Hall is hereby assigned to the PCR action appellant has filed. Judge Hall shall retain jurisdiction over this case regardless of where he may be assigned to hold court and may schedule such hearings as may be necessary at any time without regard to whether there is a term of court scheduled. Judge Hall shall conduct a hearing on appellant's desires regarding counsel within thirty days of the date of this order. Within sixty days of the date of this order, Judge Hall shall issue a scheduling order setting forth the schedule that shall be followed in this matter, including the date of the hearing on the merits. The scheduling order may be amended as necessary. A copy of the scheduling order and any amended scheduling order shall be provided to counsel, this Court, and Court Administration. In addition to appellant's obligation to notify the Clerk of this Court of the status of this matter every sixty days under *In re Stays of Execution in Capital Cases, supra*, Judge Hall is requested to provide the Clerk of this Court

and Court Administration with an update on the status of this matter every one hundred and twenty days.

	C.J.
	J.
	J.
	J.
	J.

Columbia, South Carolina

March 29, 2018

cc:

Robert Michael Dudek, Esquire
Barry Joe Barnette, Esquire
Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire
Melody Jane Brown, Esquire
David Alexander, Esquire
John W. McIntosh, Esquire
Donald J. Zelenka, Esquire
Lindsey Danielle Jacobs, Esquire
Patricia Standaert Ravenhorst, Esquire
Meliah Bowers Jefferson, Esquire
The Honorable M. Hope Blackley
The Honorable Daniel Hall
South Carolina Court Administration