

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Michael L. Couch, Petitioner,

v.

State of South Carolina, Respondent.

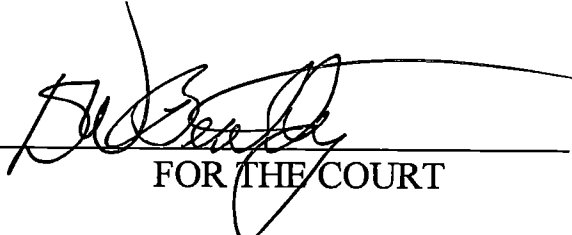
Appellate Case No. 2017-000159

ORDER

Counsel has submitted a petition pursuant to *Johnson v. State*, 294 S.C. 310, 364 S.E.2d 201 (1988), and a motion to be relieved as counsel. We deny the motion to be relieved as counsel and direct the parties to address the following questions:

- I. Was trial counsel ineffective in abandoning self-defense and admitting petitioner's guilt in his closing argument?
- II. Was trial counsel ineffective in failing to object to the admission of the recording of the 911 call?

Petitioner shall serve and file a petition on this question within thirty (30) days of the date of this order. Along with the petition, petitioner shall provide this Court with all of the exhibits presented at trial. Thereafter, respondent shall have thirty (30) days to serve and file its return.



FOR THE COURT C.J.

Columbia, South Carolina

May 24, 2018

cc:

Lindsey Ann McCallister, Esquire

Taylor Davis Gilliam, Esquire

Michael Couch, 282654