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ORIGINAL

October 3, 2018

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

RECEIVED
NOV 01 2018
S.C. SUPREME COURT

Re: Christopher L. Hampton v. The State,
Appellate Case No. 2017-002374

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

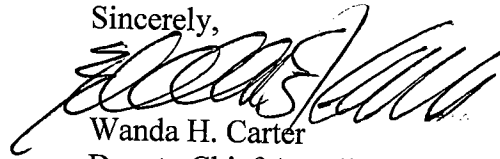
This is a status update on the latest progress made on the scheduling of a reconstruction hearing for Christopher Hampton's first PCR hearing in the above titled case.

A status conference was held via telephone on October 25, 2018, between Judge Couch, Jordan Cox, and me to discuss the issues in the case, the availability of witnesses, and how the proceeding should be conducted. Judge Couch was notified of the identities of the witnesses who need to appear when the hearing is held. For example, trial counsel is deceased (passed away two days after the trial) and was not present during the first PCR hearing held in the case. However, W. Jeffrey McGurk, who was PCR counsel at the first PCR hearing, will be available to testify as a witness. Also, S. Prentiss Counts, Esquire, formerly of the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, who handled the case during the first PCR hearing, will also be available to testify at the upcoming hearing. Presently, we are working on contacting the case investigator who testified at the first PCR hearing. Finally, the agreed upon format of the hearing will be confined to the allegations outlined in the PCR application and the findings addressed in the first Order of Dismissal submitted in the case.

With respect to possible hearing dates, the week of November 26, 2018, has been set tentatively as a time period during which the hearing could be held (in York County) pending Judge Couch's confirmation of the same. Mr. Cox and I are available to meet during that week, and Mr. McGurk advised on yesterday's date that he is available to meet during that time frame also.

I will contact the Court as further progress is made regarding a definite date on which the reconstruction hearing will be convened.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wanda H. Carter', written in a cursive style.

Wanda H. Carter
Deputy Chief Appellate Defender

WHC/emw

cc: Honorable Roger L. Couch
Jordan Cox, Esquire
William Jeffrey McGurk, Esquire