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Appellate Case Number
2018-032264

FEB 11 2019 Whom it may Concern,

SC Court of Appeals

I was originally charged with murder for the shooting-death of George Earl Dover on April 16th, 2017. Against my better judgement I pled to the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter on October 16th, 2018. I really don't think it was voluntary manslaughter but after being assured by my attorney (David C. Hayes) that it was the smart thing to do and that I shouldn't get more than 10 to 15 years I made the mistake of trusting him and pleading to the lesser charge. I would also like to add that during the course of making my decision he was constantly reminding me that if I took it to trial and was convicted of murder I would probably receive 35 to 40 years. I feel like I was coaxed into taking the plea and if I had known then everything that I do now I wouldn't have taken the plea. Now my attorney has left me with the writing of this statement and to be honest I have no idea what I am doing but I will do the best I can. I would like to go on record saying that this should be done by the attorney as I'm in no way qualified to identify and correctly argue the issues that I'm going to argue in hopes of getting this appeal granted. I will be quite adamant in saying that Mr. Hayes should be arguing since he knows what issues are likely to get this appeal granted. I don't know what else I should expect from him though. I've felt from the day he was appointed my attorney that he hasn't had my best interests at heart. I also feel like if I would have had an

attorney that was more dedicated to my case and helping me I wouldn't have wound up with a 25 year sentence that I honestly believe I do not deserve. I just want to make it clear that if I do not get this appeal it will be because of the ineffective counsel of David C. Hayes. Also, I don't know if it matters or not but I would like you to know that I wrote the Bar Association about Mr. Hayes in February or March and also put in a motion in ~~the~~ March to relieve counsel which was denied by Judge Keesely. Nothing ever came of the letter to the Bar either which to be honest was expected. I was forced to keep an attorney I wasn't comfortable with and the end result is me sitting in prison serving a 25 year sentence. I have 3 issues I will address in hopes of convincing you to grant this appeal. (1) My attorney to see me in I think it was January of 2018 and told me that my sister Julia Defore, also a codefendant in my case, was interviewed ~~and~~ by the solicitor and would be testifying at my trial. When I asked Mr. Hayes what her testimony was going to be he said he didn't know, that the solicitor didn't write down or record the interview. Me and Ms. Defore weren't allowed contact then but now that we are able to talk again I have found out that there were several interviews with Ms. Defore and that shes reasonably sure that all were written down and at least one was recorded. Now Mr Hayes told me at the time that the solicitor didn't have to

write down or record her statement to share with us. Now my question is why would I not be told about all interviews and since she was supposed to be a witness for state why wouldn't her testimony be recorded and shared with us since as far as I know by law we're supposed to have access to all evidence to be used by the state at trial?

2) I think this was July 2018 Mr. Hayes came to see me again at the jail and told me we were going to trial the next month which was August 2018. On this same visit Mr. Hayes told me that Michelle Newman (another co-defendant) went to see my solicitor and gave him a new statement about what happened the night that George Dover was shot. As with the interviews with my sister Ms. DeFore I was told that Ms. Newman's statement wasn't written down or recorded. When I asked about this I was told the same thing I was told about Ms. DeFore, that the solicitor didn't have to write or record Ms. Newman's statement and share it with us. Now, when Ricky Sanders (the other co-defendant in my case) changed his statement in a way that would help the solicitor convict me he made sure that he recorded that. I firmly believe that Ms. Newman's last statement to the solicitor was the truth about what happened that night and would have helped me and that's why it wasn't recorded. So I ask you, how is it fair that a solicitor can pick and choose what statements to record and what evidence to share with

the defense. As far as I know a defendant in any state has the right to all evidence being used against him in a criminal case. There was clearly evidence kept from me and I believe that had it been known there would have been a different outcome in this case.

(3) Throughout the year and a half I was in jail awaiting trial I asked and asked my attorney about Mr. Dover's criminal history. I was told that the solicitor didn't have to share that with us and if he did we wouldn't get it till right before trial. Needless to say we were never given that information. ~~about the case~~

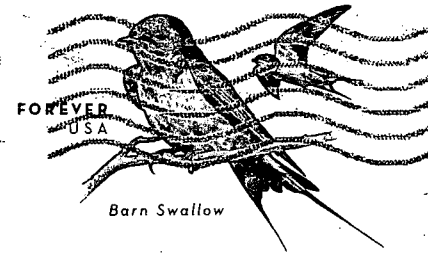
my solicitor was Bradley McMillan. From what I know of him he had been a Public Defender who went to work for the other side and became a solicitor. Mr. Hayes told me Mr. McMillan had had the job for about a year and a half and that my case was his first big case and he wanted to go to trial with it. I believe that Mr. McMillan wanted to convict me so bad that he ~~was~~ ~~didn't~~ kept evidence from us and my attorney had no problem letting him do it. I also believe that had any of these issues been known to me or the Judge there would have been a different outcome in my case. These are just the issues that I'm aware of. As I said I'm not very good at this type of things so I'm sure there are other issues the Judge should have been made aware of, but at the moment I don't have transcripts or the motion for my case. Hopefully I have explained things well enough to help me get

this appeal granted. I honestly believe that I was
tricked into taking this plea and I sincerely hope
that you'll allow me to go back to court with a

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South Carolina Court of Appeals

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