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March 6, 2017
The Honorable Daniel E. Shearouse
Clerk of South Carolina Supreme Court
ATTN: Ms. Debbie Hopkins
P.O. Box 11330
Columbia, S.C. 29211-1330
Electronically and by U.S. Mail

RECEIVED

MAR -8 2017

S.C. SUPREME COURT

Re: *Norman E. Starnes v. State*, 2011-CP-32-830

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Court with a summary of activity in the above-mentioned case, in the last ninety (plus) days.

October 3, 2016 Update:

The Court convened a hearing on July 26, 2016. At the hearing, the Court set August 19, 2016 as the date for motions for summary judgments to be filed. In the alternative, the Court granted Applicant until October 3, 2016 to file a second amended application. Applicant is filing a significantly amended second amended application for PCR relief today. Additionally, Applicant was diagnosed with a large ocular melanoma tumor in his right eye, which is causing partial but substantial blindness in that eye. We are awaiting test results to determine whether the cancer has spread to other parts of Applicant's body. The State and the Court was made aware of the diagnosis.

March 5, 2017

In the intervening period, Mr. Starnes was treated with radiation seeds that were enclosed in a plaque, as they call it. His right eye was removed from its socket, the muscle was cut, and the plaque was placed in the bottom of his right eye. The muscle was loosely reattached and his eye was returned to its socket. The plaque remained in place for roughly 120 hours, with Mr. Starnes' required to wear a lead eye patch to protect all others who were within a few feet of him from being exposed to the radiation. The plaque was successfully removed in tact, meaning none of the radiation rice-like pieces escaped the plaque. The tumor was biopsied, and it was a couple of months before the results were returned. He has the least aggressive type of monocular melanoma. Additionally, Mr. Starnes was seen for a check up in mid-February. His oncologist reports that Mr. Starnes' tumor is shrinking, that the cancer has not spread, and that his eye sight is beginning to return somewhat. His chance of living another five years is greater than not.

Thank you for your kind patience.

With high personal regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom, enclosed within a large, irregular oval shape.

Diana L. Holt

(CC recipients electronically only)

cc: The Honorable Alexander S. Macaulay, presiding Judge by special order of this
Court. (AmacaulayJ@sccourts.org) Courtesy copy by U.S. Mail
Al Simon, Jr., Esq. (Asimon@scag.gov)
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