

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE SUPREME COURT

---

*On Petition for Writ of Certiorari to Court of Common Pleas*

**\*CAPITAL PCR ACTION\***

APPEAL FROM SUMTER COUNTY  
Honorable William H. Seals, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

---

**RECEIVED**

**Apr 21 2020**

S.C. SUPREME COURT

STEPHEN COREY BRYANT ..... PETITIONER- RESPONDENT

v.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA ..... RESPONDENT-PETITIONER.

Appellate Case No. 2019-000610

---

**MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

---

The State's return is currently due to be filed today, April 21, 2020. This Court has extended the time for filing twice before on the State's motion, and also granted an additional twenty days by virtue of the March 20, 2020 Order of the Chief Justice affecting all pending appellate due dates. Respondent-Petitioner, State of South Carolina, respectfully requests an additional fourteen days of time to complete the return for the following reasons:

1. The undersigned has not been able to complete the return due to other work obligations including having to expend a significant amount of time in preparing needed telecommuting protocols in response to limitations imposed due to the current coronavirus emergency; addressing new procedures for the section's federal and state filings due to changes in court procedures during the emergency; creating new protocols for transportation of exhibits

in light of courthouse closings in response to the emergency; and, in addressing a variety of work obligations both state and federal which has delayed completion of this return, including, but not limited to the follow, since the State's last request: The State has completed and filed returns and memoranda in support of motions for summary judgment in two non-capital federal habeas actions (*Kristie Bishop; Eugene Patterson*); prepared and filed objections to a report and recommendation in another federal habeas action (*Kenneth Craig*); filed a status report in a capital federal habeas action (*Bayan Aleksey*); filed a response in opposition to motion to vacate summary judgment in another non-capital federal habeas action (*Robert Lee Foster*); filed a response in opposition to motion for stay in another non-capital federal habeas action (*Ryan Deleston*); filed a status report for the federal habeas action in Petitioner-Respondent's capital federal habeas action (*Stephen Corey Bryant*); filed a reply to response in opposition to motion for summary judgment and a response in opposition to motion for evidentiary hearing in one of the above listed federal habeas action (*Kristi Bishop*); received and reviewed orders and opinions denying federal relief in four other capital federal habeas cases, three from the District Court and one from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals (*Quincy Allen; Marion Bowman; Steven Bixby; Brad Sigmon*), and, is currently completing for filing today in this Court a Brief of Respondent in a murder direct appeal (*Fabian Green*). Further, the undersigned has been out for several days on approved leave for necessary personal matters, and also has, within the prior extension period, consulted, advised and aided in the drafting of various pleadings and responses prepared by the other six attorneys in the unit.

2. Counsel has consulted with opposing counsel, E. Charles Grose, Esq., who has advised that he consents to a fourteen day extension of time.

3. Undersigned counsel is aware of the time requested to complete this particular step in the appellate process. Counsel anticipates, barring other unforeseen delays or additional modifications in court procedures and work structure, that the return may be completed and filed within the time requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ALAN WILSON  
Attorney General

DONALD J. ZELENKA  
Deputy Attorney General

MELODY J. BROWN  
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

Post Office Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
(803)734-6305

By: 

MELODY J. BROWN  
SC Bar No. 14244

ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

April 21, 2020  
Columbia, South Carolina.