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February 25, 2013

RECEIVED
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SC Court of Appeals

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk, SC Court of Appeals
PO Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: Jody Lynn Ward v. State of South Carolina, Appellate Case No. 2012-213222

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

On January 11, 2013, the Court issued an order holding this appeal in abeyance to allow this office to determine whether or not we would take this case.

The information we have received from Mr. Ward and the documents we have reviewed reveals this was a motion for a new trial based on after-discovered evidence and a motion to arrest judgment that were both denied by Judge Culbertson. Mr. Ward in another document references three prior PCR actions and a writ of habeas corpus in the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. From what I have reviewed I cannot ascertain any merit to what I am able, respectfully, to understand of Mr. Ward's "final brief." Since individuals are only entitled to a direct appeal and one PCR appeal, absent unusual circumstances, I have determined that our office cannot handle this *pro se* appeal since we do not have any evidence it has any merit.

If the Court has any questions or needs additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Dudek
Chief Appellate Defender

RMD/sag

cc: Mr. Jody Lynn Ward
Salley Elliott, Esquire