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SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

Division of Appellate Defense
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-3332
Post Office Box 11589
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1589
Telephone: (803) 734-1330
Facsimile: (803) 734-1397

Robert M. Dudek, Chief Appellate Defender
Wanda H. Carter, Deputy Chief Appellate Defender

September 9, 2020

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

RECEIVED

Sep 09 2020

S.C. SUPREME COURT

Re: Shakeia Butler v. The State of South Carolina
Appellate Case No. 2020-000365

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

The petition for writ of certiorari and accompanying appendix in the above-referenced case are due to be served and filed today. In reviewing the numerous documents associated with this case, I discovered that this case involves an Austin claim that Ms. Butler's first PCR attorney failed to seek review of an earlier PCR proceeding. As part of that case, Ms. Butler's first PCR counsel sought funding for a battered spouse expert. A hearing was held on that motion on May 29, 2014 before the Honorable Maite Murphy. Ms. Butler and plea counsel testified at that hearing. An order denying funding was signed by Judge Murphy on August 22, 2014.

The transcript of that hearing is necessary to this appeal. The petition I file will address the denial of funding, an issue which is material to Ms. Butler's appeal. At the first PCR hearing, Ms. Butler was unable to present expert testimony on the subject of battered spouse syndrome. We have requested the transcript today and would request that the time limits be held in abeyance pending receipt of it. A copy of our transcript request is attached. I will endeavor to prepare the portions of both petitions that can be drafted without the transcript, such that there will be minimal delay, if any, between receipt of the May 2014 transcript and the filing of the petitions and appendix.

By copy of this letter, I am informing the Attorney General's Office of this request.

Sincerely,
s/Taylor D. Gilliam
Taylor D. Gilliam
Appellate Defender

Enclosure

cc: Sara Gunton, Esq.
Shakeia Butler