

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

DANIEL E. SHEAROUSE
CLERK OF COURT

BRENDA F. SHEALY
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

POST OFFICE BOX 11330
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
29211
1231 GERVAIS STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1080
FAX: (803) 734-1499
www.sccourts.org

October 9, 2020

Robert Michael Dudek, Esquire
PO Box 11589
Columbia SC 29211

Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire
S.C. Attorney General's Office
PO Box 11549
Columbia SC 29211-1549

Stephanie Bianco Linder, Esquire
101 Meeting Street
4Th Floor
Charleston SC 29401

Donald J. Zelenka, Esquire
PO Box 11549
Columbia SC 29211-1549

Susannah Rawl Cole, Esquire
PO Box 11549
Columbia SC 29211

Scarlett Anne Wilson, Esquire
101 Meeting St., Ste. 400
Charleston SC 29401

J. Robert Bolchoz, Esquire
PO Box 6989
Columbia SC 29260

Melody Jane Brown, Esquire
PO Box 11549
Columbia SC 29211-1549

Re: The State v. Ahshaad Mykiel Owens
Appellate Case No. 2019-001601

Dear Counsel:

As you know, this case will be argued in the Supreme Court Courtroom in Columbia on Thursday, October 14, 2020. Since COVID-19 still poses a significant threat, the arguments in this case will be subject to the following:

- (1) Only the lawyers actually arguing the case will be allowed to enter the Supreme Court Building. All other persons, including lawyers who are not arguing in the case and the parties, may view the proceeding on the Supreme Court Video Portal at <https://www.sccourts.org/SCvideo>. In addition to live streaming, a recording of the arguments will be posted to the Video Portal on the afternoon following the arguments.
- (2) Each party may only have one lawyer present in the courtroom to argue on behalf of that party. Further, if multiple parties are represented by the same lawyers, only one of those lawyers will be allowed to argue. Therefore, the maximum number of lawyers I anticipate allowing to enter the Supreme Court Building in this case is 5. If you are one of the counsel who will be arguing, I ask that you notify me of this by e-mail no later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, October 12, 2020. Please send this e-mail to dshearouse@sccourts.org.
- (3) The lawyers arguing this case will be admitted to the Supreme Court Building no earlier than 10 minutes prior to the start of the arguments. Please plan your arrival time accordingly.

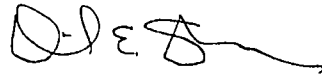
- (4) A mask must be worn at all times while in the Supreme Court Building and grounds, including the front portico and the parking lot. The mask may only be removed while presenting your arguments to the Court. Further, social distancing of at least 6 feet must be maintained at all times while in the Supreme Court Building and grounds, including the front portico and the parking lot. I also alert you that plexiglass shields will be used at the counsel tables, podium and bench to help further reduce the risk.
- (5) The lawyers who will be arguing will have assigned seating within the Courtroom designed to minimize close contact between the lawyers. When you enter the Courtroom, please immediately go to your assigned seat and remain there until you are called to argue. While I know the normal practice would be for the lawyers to exchange pleasantries with each other upon entering the Courtroom, I would ask that you refrain from doing this unless it can be done from your assigned seat.
- (6) Prior to your entry to the Supreme Court Building, the Building, the Courtroom, Lobby and Restrooms will be sanitized. Further, the podium area will be sanitized between the arguments by each lawyer. Therefore, you should expect some delay between each lawyer's arguments. Please do not come forward to the podium until sanitizing is completed and you are directed to come forward. When you complete your argument, please reinstall your mask before returning to your assigned seat.
- (7) You will be issued a bottle of hand sanitizer. I ask that you use this immediately prior to coming forward to the podium, or prior to going to, or upon returning from, the restrooms. This will help minimize the risk of contamination of the podium area or the restrooms.
- (8) Upon the conclusion of the oral arguments, I ask that you exit the Courtroom in a manner that maintains appropriate social distancing. Please do not gather to talk until you exit the Building and the front portico.

I look forward to seeing the lawyers arguing this case next week. I deeply regret that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our ability to conduct oral arguments without restrictions, and I can assure you that the Supreme Court of

South Carolina looks forward with great anticipation to the day when this pandemic no longer adversely affects our ability to conduct oral arguments.

If you have any questions or concerns related to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. E. Star", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CLERK