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SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM Horry COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

Cynthia Graham Howe, Master-In-Equity

Appellate Case No. 2018-001590

Andrew Waldo; Jane Zheng; and SC Coast Properties, LLC d/b/a Keller
Williams Realty Respondents,

v.

Michael Cousins; Founders Five, LLC d/b/a Sperry Van Ness Founders Group; and
South Carolina Association of REALTORS Appellants.

**SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®’S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE
TO FILE *AMICUS CURIAE* BRIEF BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®**

The Appellant, South Carolina Association of REALTORS® (“SCAR”), files this reply in support of the motion to file an *amicus curiae* brief by the National Association of REALTORS® pursuant to S.C. R. App. P. 240(f). The standard for filing an *amicus curiae* brief under either the South Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure or the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure is the same. Fed. R. App. P. 29; S.C. R. App. P. 213. The *amicus* must identify an interest in the case and why an *amicus curiae* brief is desirable.¹ The National Association of REALTORS® meets the

¹ When considering a South Carolina rule, which is substantially the same as a federal rule, state courts will take guidance from cases interpreting the similar federal rule. *Maybank v. BB&T Corp.*, 416 S.C. 541, 565, 787 S.E.2d 498, 510 (2016); *Gardiner v. Newsome Chevrolet-Buick, Inc.*, 304 S.C. 328, 330, 404 S.E.2d 200, 201 (1991).

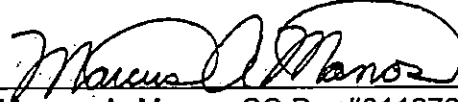
requirements for an *amicus curiae* party and the opposition of Appellee simply does not address the standard.

The Appellate Courts of South Carolina normally grant petitions for *amicus curiae* briefs in the interest of having a full discussion of all issues. See, e.g., *Savannah Riverkeeper v. South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control*, 400 S.C. 196, 207, 733 S.E.2d 903, 909 (2012) (dissent by Justice Kitteridge noting the standard practice to accept *amici* briefs). The federal appellate courts generally grant motions to file *amicus curiae* briefs even in cases that are then decided on the record and briefs without oral argument or dismissed on jurisdictional grounds. See, e.g., *Schafer v. Citibank, N.A.*, 447 Fed. Appx. 466 (4th Circuit 2011) (*amicus* brief considered and *amicus* made a party when case decided without oral argument on the record and briefs); *Barr v. Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control*, 710 Fed. Appx. 141 (4th Circuit 2018) (initial *amicus* brief accepted and *amicus* made a party despite unpublished opinion dismissing for lack of jurisdiction due to late filing of notice of appeal and rejection of *amicus* request for a reply brief).

As the record in this action and the brief of the National Association of REALTORS® (“NAR”) reflect, the NAR provides as part of its rules an arbitration process for all REALTOR® members to quickly and inexpensively resolve disputes. The arbitration process operates for all state and local REALTOR® associations and has for decades. It represents one of the earliest and broadest arbitration systems, saving parties time and money and relieving over crowded court dockets. Affirmance of the decision below would make South Carolina an outlier and increase the length, cost, and court involvement in this long successful alternative dispute resolution process.

For these reasons, the Motion to File *Amicus Curiae* Brief of NAR should be granted and NAR should be added to the caption of this appeal as an *amicus* party.

Respectfully submitted,



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October 15, 2020

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

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Appeal from Horry County
Court of Common Pleas

Cynthia Graham Howe, Master-In-Equity, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2018-001590

Andrew Waldo; Jane Zheng; and SC Coast Properties, LLC d/b/a
Keller Williams Realty..... Respondents,

v.

Michael Cousins; Founders Five, LLC d/b/a Sperry Van Ness Founders Group;
and South Carolina Association of REALTORS®..... Appellants.

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the **SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE *AMICUS CURIAE* BRIEF** has been served upon counsel of record, via electronic mail, a copy of the same on the 15th day of October, 2020, to the addresses shown below.

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SC Court of Appeals

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Admitted in SC, NC, DC

October 15, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING – ctappfilings@sccourts.org

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of Court, South Carolina Court of Appeals
1220 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

RE: Andrew Waldo, Jane Zheng and SC Coast Properties, LLC d/b/a Keller Williams Realty vs. Michael Cousins, Founders Five, LLC d/b/a Sperry Van Ness Founders Group, and South Carolina Association of REALTORS® / Case No. 2018-001590

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Enclosed for filing is the Appellant South Carolina Association of REALTORS®'s Reply In Support Of Motion For Leave To File *Amicus Curiae* Brief By National Association Of REALTORS® and Proof of Service in the above-referenced matter. The original will be placed in the mail.

By copy of this letter and as evidence by the attached Proof of Service, we are serving counsel of record with a copy of the above Reply.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,


Marcus A. Manos

MAM/hjr
Enclosures

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