

EXHIBIT

A

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

The State, Respondent,

v.

John D. Garvin

Appellate Case No. 2013-001209

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNSEL

The South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense, Division of Appellate Defense, represents Appellant in this appeal. Pursuant to the 2013 Appellate Practice Project, conducted with the approval of the Chief Justice, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and the South Carolina Bar, the Division of Appellate Defense moves to have Miles Edward Coleman appointed as lead counsel for Appellant. Chief Appellate Defender Robert M. Dudek will remain as co-counsel. The terms of participation in the Appellate Practice Project require that the appointment be made under the following conditions:

- The appointed attorney will serve pro-bono. No travel, research, printing or other costs will be reimbursed by the Commission without the prior written approval of Patton Adams, Hugh Ryan, III, or Robert M. Dudek.
- The appointed attorney will be responsible for preparing the briefs and Record on Appeal and delivering them to the Appellate Division for printing and filing no later than one week before the due date. The initial brief, any initial reply brief, the Record on Appeal, and the final briefs must be "file ready" when delivered to the Appellate Division for printing (this includes a complete table of authorities, certificate of service, and designation of matter to be included in the Record on Appeal. The Record on Appeal must also be numbered). The cover page of each brief and the Record on Appeal must contain the names, addresses and phone numbers of the Chief Appellate Defender, and the appointed attorney.

- The attorney assigned will be responsible for arguing the case before the South Carolina Court of Appeals.
- The appointment will remain in effect until any petition for rehearing is ruled upon by the Court of Appeals. Any decision to seek discretionary review from the Supreme Court should be made in conjunction with the Chief Appellate Defender. However, representation will remain on a pro bono basis.
- The appointed attorney must attend and participate in "Presenting Criminal Cases to the Court of Appeals," a CLE seminar presented by the South Carolina Bar on October 24, 2013, unless excused in advance by the Division of Appellate Defense.
- The appointed attorney will receive one Rule 608, SCACR, credit for their pro bono representation for the year beginning July 1, 2013, and ending on June 30, 2014. The appointed attorney is responsible for presenting the appointment order to the applicable clerk of court.
- In the event of a post-conviction relief case alleging ineffective assistance of appellate counsel, at the request of the State or the applicant, the appointed attorney must make their files available as required by the rules of court, and attend any hearing scheduled to resolve the claim.

Respondent consents to this motion.



ROBERT DUDEK

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

James Edward Hunter
Salley W. Elliott
Alan McCrory Wilson
Scott David Robinson
Robert Michael Dudek
Miles Edward Coleman

EXHIBIT

B

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

The State, Respondent,

v.

John D. Garvin

Appellate Case No. 2013-001209

ORDER

The motion of the Division of Appellate Defense to appoint Miles Edward Coleman as co-counsel for the purpose of preparing the briefs and record and arguing the case before this court in accordance with the conditions set forth in the motion and the terms of the 2013 Appellate Practice Project is granted.

The due date for Appellant's initial brief is December 2, 2013. That deadline will not be extended except under extraordinary circumstances.


FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Salley W. Elliott
Alan McCrory Wilson
Robert Michael Dudek
Miles Edward Coleman

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SC OFFICE OF
APPELLATE DEFENSE

FILED

9/19/13 AT

EXHIBIT

C

John Garvin - #3555.09
Lee Correctional Inst.
990 Wisacky Hwy.
Bishopville, S.C. 29010

November 4, 2013

ATTN: Mr. Miles E. Coleman, Attorney-at-Law
Nelson Mullins, Riley & Scarborough, LLP
1320 Main St., 17th Floor
Columbia, S.C. 29201

RE: Legal issue

Dear Mr. Coleman,

I am writing you in regards to your legal representation of me on my appeal. For I would like to know what type of issues are you planning to raise on my appeal. I would like to talk to you about this matter.

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Please get back to me about this matter, it would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Garvin

EXHIBIT

D

Nelson Mullins

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
1320 Main Street / 17th Floor / Columbia, SC 29201
Tel: 803.799.2000 Fax: 803.255.5908
www.nelsonmullins.com

Miles E. Coleman
Tel: 803.255.5549
Fax: 803.255.5908
miles.coleman@nelsonmullins.com

November 7, 2013

John Garvin, No. 355509
Lee Correctional Institution
990 Wisacky Highway
Bishopville, South Carolina 29010

Re: Issues on Appeal

Dear Mr. Garvin:

I am writing to respond to your letter of November 4, 2013 in which you inquired about the issues I plan to raise on your appeal. Over the course of the past few weeks, I have read the transcript of your trial, have researched and analyzed the relevant laws and court precedent, and have consulted with several of the attorneys from the South Carolina Office of Indigent Defense regarding the potential issues. Based on this analysis and research, I plan to raise three issues on appeal, which are summarized below.

The first issue is whether the trial court erred by forcing you to go to trial represented by Mr. Robinson. As you recall, prior to trial, Mr. Robinson requested to be relieved as your attorney, and you moved to have him removed as counsel due to his delays, slow responses, and poor communication with you. On appeal, we can argue that the judge was wrong to require you to go to trial with him as your attorney, that Mr. Robinson did a poor job representing you, and thus the judge's error resulted in an unfair trial.

Second, we will argue on appeal that the trial judge erred by allowing into evidence the written statement that the police and prosecutor claimed you made and signed after arrest. Statements like that may only be used as evidence if the statement was freely and voluntarily made. In your trial, that supposed statement was a very significant piece of "evidence" that the prosecutor relied on. We will argue to the Court of Appeals that it was an error for the judge to allow it and thus your trial was unfair.

Third, we will argue that the trial judge erred by denying your motion for a "directed verdict." The law says that when there is no actual evidence of guilt and all the state has done is to suggest or imply that someone is guilty, the trial court should "direct a verdict" in favor

Garvin—issues on appeal

November 7, 2013

Page 2

of the defendant, which means a ruling that the defendant is not guilty. We will argue that the prosecutor presented no evidence that you knew about the drug transaction, which was carried out by others when you were not present. Accordingly, because there was no evidence—only the suggestion or accusation—of guilt, the trial court erred by failing to grant your motions for directed verdict.

As you may know, the Court of Appeals does not and will not consider whether or not you are innocent. Rather, they only consider whether you received a fair trial. This limits the number of arguments we can make and means your conviction will be reversed only if they decide the trial judge made an error that negatively effected the trial. If they reverse your conviction, you would receive a new trial to be conducted fairly.

Lastly, I am attaching to this letter a form that I request you sign and return to me. As you will see, this form is simply to make you aware that a few attorneys who work at my large firm occasionally assist the Attorney General in prosecuting domestic violence cases. I have never participated in those cases, and no one who works on those cases will be involved with your appeal at all. I simply wanted make you aware of this and to be certain you wish for me to undertake your appeal. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to write again. Otherwise, please sign the form (before a notary, if possible) and return it to me.

Very truly yours,

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

Miles E. Coleman

MEC:kdm

EXHIBIT

E

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Supreme Court

APPEAL FROM LEXINGTON COUNTY
Court of General Sessions

R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Court Judge

RECEIVED
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SC COURT OF APPEALS

Case No. 2012-GS-42-05979
Appellate Case No. 2013-001209

The State of South Carolina,..... Respondent,

v.

John D. Garvin,..... Appellant.

MOTION TO BE RELIEVED AS COUNSEL

Pursuant to Rule 240 of the South Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure, undersigned counsel moves to be relieved as counsel for Appellant in the above captioned matter. Undersigned counsel was appointed as counsel in this matter by this Court's Order dated September 9, 2013, pursuant to the motion of the Division of Appellate Defense as part of the 2013 Appellate Practice Project.

A necessary predicate before undertaking this representation was for undersigned counsel to inform Mr. Garvin of the potential conflict of interest arising from the fact that other attorneys at his counsel's firm aid the State by prosecuting criminal domestic violence matters. Although counsel informed Mr. Garvin of this conflict promptly, it was not until quite recently that Mr. Garvin gave a definitive response, refusing to waive the potential conflict and declining to consent to representation. Despite the best and repeated efforts of undersigned counsel and Bob Dudek to explain to Mr. Garvin, both in writing and in telephonic conversation, the nature of the potential conflict and the fact that it

would not taint his representation, Mr. Garvin remained steadfast in his refusal to waive the potential conflict.

Pursuant to communication between undersigned counsel and the South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense ("SCCID"), LaNelle C. DuRant, Esquire, of SCCID has expressed her willingness to undertake Mr. Garvin's representation. In addition; pursuant to his communications with SCCID and in accordance with the terms of the 2013 Appellate Practice Project, undersigned counsel has undertaken to serve as co-counsel in a pending Petition for Certiorari for review of a trial court's denial of post-conviction relief in a capital case. Accordingly, pursuant to Mr. Garvin's wishes, undersigned counsel respectfully requests that this Court relieve him as Mr. Garvin's counsel and return the case to the appellate division of the office of indigent defense.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP

By: 

Miles E. Coleman
SC Bar No. 78264
E-Mail: miles.coleman@nelsonmullins.com
Post Office Box 11070 (29211-1070)
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 799-2000

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Robert M. Dudek
E-Mail: rdudek@sccid.sc.gov
1330 Lady Street, Suite 401
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 734-1343

ATTORNEYS FOR APPELLANT

Columbia, South Carolina
November 19, 2013

EXHIBIT

F

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

The State, Respondent,

v.

John D. Garvin, Appellant.


Appellate Case No. 2013-001209

ORDER

Attorney Miles E. Coleman filed a motion to be relieved as counsel for the appellant based upon a conflict of interest. Accordingly, Mr. Coleman's motion to be relieved is granted. Chief Appellate Defender Robert M. Dudek and Appellate Defender Lanelle Cantey DuRant remain as counsel of record for the appellant. The appellant's initial brief and designation of matter are due to be served and filed no later than January 2, 2014.

FOR THE COURT

BY


CLERK

Columbia, South Carolina

cc:

Salley W. Elliott, Esquire
Alan McCrory Wilson, Esquire
LaNelle Cantey DuRant, Esquire
Robert M. Dudek, Esquire
Miles E. Coleman, Esquire

FILED

12/12/13

EXHIBIT

G

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Spartanburg County

R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

JOHN DWAYNE GARVIN,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2013-001209

INITIAL BRIEF OF APPELLANT

LANELLE CANTEY DURANT
Appellate Defender

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Division of Appellate Defense
PO Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211-1589
(803) 734-1343

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

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STATEMENT OF ISSUES ON APPEAL

1. Did the trial court err in admitting the statement of Appellant Garvin when the state did not prove by a preponderance of the evidence that Garvin's statement was freely and voluntarily and knowingly given?
2. Did the trial court err in not granting a directed verdict to Appellant Garvin when the only evidence against him was his statement which he recanted because he testified that he did not make the confession statement but was tricked into signing it?

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

In December 2012, the Spartanburg County Grand Jury indicted John Dwayne Garvin on the charge of trafficking heroin more than fourteen grams. On May 21-23, 2013, Garvin proceeded to trial before the Honorable R. Lawton McIntosh and a jury. Garvin was represented by Scott Robinson, and the state was represented by Eddie Hunter. The jury returned a verdict of guilty as indicted. Judge McIntosh sentenced Garvin to the mandatory sentence of twenty-five years and a \$200,000 fine. Tr. 296, ll. 3 – Tr. 297, ll. 18. Garvin's attorney filed a notice of appeal. This appeal follows.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On July 17, 2012, Investigator Ken Hancock with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department, gave an informant by the name of Fred Jerman, \$4200 to purchase heroin at a destination on Highway 9 across I-85 in Spartanburg County. Jerman was equipped with a video to record the transaction with sound and vision. After the transaction, Investigator Hancock turned the drugs into the evidence locker. Tr. 90, ll. 1 – Tr. 97, ll. 25.

Investigator Hancock was across the street from the incident site when the transaction occurred. The informant was sitting at the gas pumps when the car of the alleged dealer pulled up beside it. Investigator Hancock saw the driver, who was identified as Garvin, get out and go into the store. The passenger, who was later identified as Perez, got out and went to the informant Jerman's car. It appeared that some transaction was occurring. Then Garvin came out, and it appeared that some communication occurred. Then they returned to their car and left. Tr. 98, ll. 11 – Tr. 99, ll. 23.

On cross examination, Investigator Hancock revealed that he did not see Garvin do anything with the informant as far as the drug transaction. Tr. 100, ll. 21 – Tr. 101, ll. 25.

Fred Jerman, the informant, admitted that on July 17, 2012, he was paid \$300 to make a controlled heroin buy. He also admitted that he had worked for law enforcement for several years and usually had charges dismissed or reduced for his cooperation. In this case, he was arrested for distribution of heroin and was cooperating with the police for that charge although he had not been made any promises. Tr. 103, ll. 19 – Tr. 108, ll. 25.

On July 17, he was to meet with Garvin known as "Big Unc" and Perez known as "Grills" to buy heroin. Tr. 108, ll. 17 – 25. During the buy, Garvin went in the store and came back and was pumping gas. Jerman gave the money to Perez who counted it. Garvin

came over to the car and Jerman spoke with him that everything was straight. Tr. 111, ll. 1 – Tr. 114, ll. 25.

Deputy William Tillinghess testified that he shot the video of the drug buy. He saw Garvin was the driver and saw him go into the store. When he came out of the store, he went to the vehicle and spoke to the informant briefly. Then Garvin pumped gasoline. Tr. 154, ll. 11 – Tr.157, ll. 25. Tillinghess admitted that he did not know what Garvin and the informant talked about and the conversation lasted about five seconds . Tr. 158, ll. 1 – 15.

Deputy Roger Luther also took a video of the drug buy at the same time that Deputy Tillinghess did. Deputy Luther admitted that he did not know what Garvin said to the informant as Garvin was in the store during the buy. Garvin went to the informant's car briefly when he came out of the store. Tr. 158, ll. 24 – Tr.163, ll.13.

Special Agent David Pait was with ATF. After Garvin and Perez were arrested, Agent Pait Mirandized Garvin and was present when Garvin gave a statement. He testified that the statement and interview with Garvin were not taped. Tr. 166, ll. 1 – Tr. 174, ll. 23.

Sled Agent Ashley Asbill took a statement from Garvin. Agent Asbill actually wrote the statement as he said Garvin was nervous and did not want to write it. Garvin did sign the statement. According to the written statement, Garvin admitted he was involved in the drug deal as he contributed \$200 to buy the heroin with Perez. Tr. 175, ll. 1 – Tr. 182, ll. 25.

On cross examination, Agent Asbill revealed that there was no video nor audio of the interview and statement. Tr. 183, ll. 1 – Tr. 184, ll. 18.

Beth Stuart, the forensic chemist with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, examined the drug which was packaged in 746 little wax envelopes. The total weight was 14.53 grams. Tr. 145, ll. 4 – 25; Tr. 149, ll. 1 – Tr. 151, ll. 25.

At the close of the state's case, defense counsel moved for a directed verdict. Counsel incorporated his objections from the Jackson v. Denno¹ hearing. The judge denied the motion. Tr. 187, ll. 24 – Tr. 188, ll. 25.

Garvin testified in his own defense. When Garvin came out of the store, he went to the informant's car to tell Perez to come on as they needed to go. He was not speaking to the informant. They left after he pumped the gas. Tr. 198, ll. 6 – Tr. 200, ll. 10. Garvin said the statement the officers have was not the statement he signed as he told the officers he did not know anything about the drug deal. All he did was bring Perez from North Carolina to South Carolina. The officers had a "bunch" of papers and just flipped one up for Garvin to sign. He thought he was signing a statement that he knew nothing about it. Tr. 200, ll. 1 – Tr. 208, ll. 5; Tr. 213, ll. 15 – Tr. 215, ll. 25.

Jonathan Perez testified for the defense. At the time of trial, he was serving a sentence of ten years as he was sentenced prior to trial. He was promised nothing by the defense to testify. According to Perez, Garvin had nothing to do with the drug transaction. Garvin drove him to meet a friend and Perez gave him gas money. Garvin did not know of Perez's intentions. Tr. 230, ll. 1 – Tr. 231, ll. 25. The only money Garvin received was gas money. Perez met with Jerman when Garvin went into the store. Tr. 233, ll. 1 – Tr. 234, ll. 10.

At the close of the defense's case, defense counsel renewed his motion for a directed verdict on the same grounds. The judge denied the motion. Tr. 243, ll. 14 – Tr. 244, ll. 11.

In a pretrial motion, defense counsel told the trial court that they needed to have a hearing pursuant to Jackson v. Denno. Tr. 13, ll. 5 – 14. During the hearing, Agent David Pait with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), testified that he

¹ Jackson v. Denno, 378 U.S. 368 (1964).

issued the Miranda warnings to Garvin at the Sheriff's Office in Spartanburg. Garvin and Perez were arrested shortly after leaving the scene. Agent Pait was present when agent Asbill wrote down the statement from Garvin. Tr. 45, ll. 5 – Tr. 47, ll. 25. Garvin was not coerced, not under duress, not promised anything, and not under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Garvin never asked for an attorney. Tr. 48, ll.1 – Tr. 50, ll. 25.

Agent Asbill testified in the hearing that he interviewed Garvin after he was taken into custody. He admitted that he wrote Garvin's statement although Garvin was able to read and write. Tr. 53, ll. 16 – Tr. 59, ll. 25.

Garvin chose not to testify at the hearing. Tr. 60, ll. 1 – Tr. 63, ll. 10. Garvin's attorney made the "standard motion in terms of voluntariness—just the regular Jackson v. Denno objection." The judge admitted the statement for the time and said he would have to determine later as to whether it's a voluntary statement or not. Tr. 63, ll. 10 – Tr. 64, ll. 14.

ARGUMENT

The trial court erred in admitting the statement of Appellant Garvin when the state did not prove by a preponderance of the evidence that Garvin's statement was freely and voluntarily and knowingly given.

In Jackson v. Denno, 378 U.S. 368 (1964), the United States Supreme Court ruled that "a defendant in a criminal case is deprived of due process of law if his conviction is founded, in whole or in part, upon an involuntary confession, without regard for the truth or falsity of the confession." In conducting the due process analysis, courts look to the totality of the circumstances to determine whether a confession was voluntary. Withrow v. Williams, 507 U.S. 680 (1993); In the Interest of TRACY B., 391 S.C. 51, 704 S.E.2d 71 (Ct. App. 2010).

In State v. Moses, 390 S.C. 502, 702 S.E.2d 395 (Ct. App. 2010), the South Carolina Court of Appeals held that the test in South Carolina for determining whether a defendant's confession was given freely, knowingly, and voluntarily focused upon whether the defendant's will was overborne by the totality of the circumstances surrounding the confession. The court wrote that among the appropriate factors that may be considered in a totality of the circumstances analysis include: background; experience; conduct of the accused; age; maturity; physical condition and mental health; length of custody; police misrepresentations, *et al.*

There was evidence that the confession statement allegedly made by Garvin was not knowingly and voluntarily given. Garvin testified that he did not make that statement but was tricked into signing the wrong statement. Garvin said he knew nothing about the drug

transaction. The co-defendant, Perez, testified that Garvin knew nothing about it. The law enforcement officers did not see Garvin involved in the drug transaction.

There was evidence to support Garvin's testimony that he did not give a statement confessing to this crime. Agent Asbill testified that he did the actual writing of Garvin's alleged statement, and there was no video nor audio of the statement.

ARGUMENT

The trial court erred in not granting a directed verdict to Appellant Garvin when the only evidence against him was his statement which he recanted because he testified that he did not make the confession statement but was tricked into signing it.

In State v. Kelsey, 331 S.C. 50, 502 S.E.2d 63 (1998), the Supreme Court held that in considering a directed verdict motion, the trial court is concerned with the existence of evidence rather than its weight. In reviewing the denial of a directed verdict motion, the evidence must be viewed in the light most favorable to the state. Id.

In State v. Weston, 367 S.C. 279, 625 S.E.2d 641 (2006), the Supreme Court ruled that a defendant is entitled to a directed verdict when the state fails to produce evidence of the offense charged. However, an appellate court must find that a case was properly submitted to the jury if any direct evidence or any substantial circumstantial evidence reasonably tends to prove the guilt of the accused. Id.

The trial court should grant a directed verdict motion when the evidence merely raises a suspicion that the defendant is guilty. State v. Odems, 395 S.C. 582, 720 S.E. 48 (2011). In State v. Odems, *supra*, the Supreme Court held that the circumstantial evidence did not tend to prove the defendant's guilt, and the defendant was entitled to a directed verdict because the state failed to produce evidence of the offense charged. The evidence against Odems consisted of his location in the getaway car in this burglary case ninety minutes after the burglary; the defendant fled from law enforcement; and Odems asked an uninvolved person to lie for him to the police.

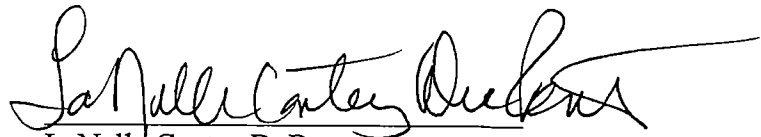
The only evidence against Garvin was his alleged statement to police which was not substantial evidence because he recanted and claimed police misrepresentation. Agent Asbill

did the actual writing of the statement in his handwriting. There was no video nor audio of the alleged statement. The co-defendant, Perez, said Garvin knew nothing about the drug transaction. The two officers conducting the video did not see Garvin involved in the drug transaction. The trial judge should have granted the directed verdict because the state did not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Garvin was guilty. The evidence only raised a mere suspicion that Garvin was involved.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, Garvin's case should be remanded for the entry of a directed verdict, or in the alternative, a new trial.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LaNelle Cantey DuRant", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LaNelle Cantey DuRant
Appellate Defender

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

This 2nd day of January, 2014.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Spartanburg County
R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

JOHN DWAYNE GARVIN,

APPELLANT

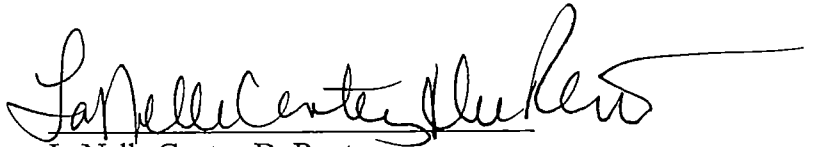
**DESIGNATION OF MATTER TO BE
INCLUDED IN RECORD ON APPEAL**

Appellant proposes the following be included in the Record on Appeal:

- (1) True-billed indictment(s);
- (2) State's Exhibit 1: Statement
- (3) Trial Transcript pages: 1-5, 45-50, 53-64, 73-101, 103-108, 111-114, 145, 149 – 151, 154-163, 166-184, 187-188, 198-208, 213-215, 230-231, 233-234, 243-287, 294, 296-297.

I certify that this designation contains no matter which is irrelevant to this appeal.

January 2nd, 2014.


LaNelle Cantey DuRant
Appellate Defender

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Division of Appellate Defense
PO Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211-1589
(803) 734-1343

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Spartanburg County
R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

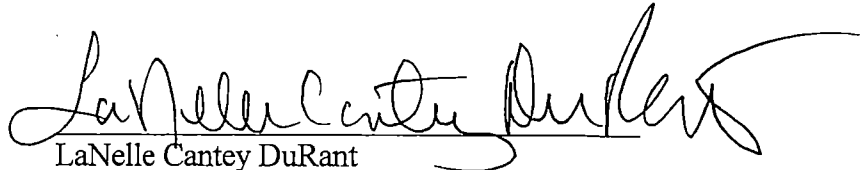
V.

JOHN DWAYNE GARVIN,

APPELLANT

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that a true copy of the Initial Brief of Appellant and Designation of Matter in the above referenced case has been served upon Salley W. Elliott, Esquire, at Rembert Dennis Building, 1000 Assembly Street, Room 519, Columbia, SC 29201, this 2nd day of January, 2014.



LaNelle Cantey DuRant
Appellate Defender

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me
this 2nd day of January, 2014.

Mawa Munder (L.S.)

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: July 3, 2023.