



The Supreme Court of South Carolina

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April 23, 2021

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Re: Mario Escalante v. David L. Rodgers
Appellate Case No. 2020-000689

Dear Counsel:

The arguments in this case will be conducted live in the Supreme Court Courtroom in Columbia on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. The arguments will start at 11:30 a.m., and the following times have been allocated for the arguments:

Petitioner:	10 minutes
Respondents:	10 minutes
Petitioner in Reply:	5 minutes

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 in the Supreme Court Building for this case is 2. 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 Wednesday, April 28, 2021. 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. You may remove your mask to make the argument. When you complete your argument, please put on 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 who will be arguing this case. 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 be "D. E. S.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CLERK