



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

May 14, 2021

Richard C Alexander, Esquire
3614 Ashley Phosphate Rd.
North Charleston SC 29418

Terence Covington Wise, Esquire
3614 Ashley Phosphate Road
North Charleston SC 29418

Wesley Brian Sawyer, Esquire
PO Box 6648
Columbia SC 29260

John Robert Murphy, Esquire
PO Box 6648
Columbia SC 29260

Thomas J. Rode, Esquire
15 Mid Atlantic Wharf
Charleston SC 29401

Re: USAA v. Belinda Pickens
Appellate Case No. 2020-000439

Dear Counsel:

The arguments in this case will be conducted live in the Supreme Court Courtroom

in Columbia on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. The arguments will start at 9:30 a.m., and the following times have been allocated for the arguments:

Appellant:	10 minutes
Respondent:	10 minutes
Appellant in Reply:	5 minutes

Unfortunately, COVID-19 still poses a danger, and the arguments in this case will be subject to the following:

(1) Each party will be limited to having two counsel present for this argument. Further, if multiple parties are represented by the same lawyers, only two of those lawyers may be present for the arguments. Therefore, the maximum number of lawyers I anticipate allowing in the Supreme Court Building for this case is 4.

I ask that each party provide the names of the lawyer(s) who will present in the Supreme Court Building on that party's behalf. This information should be provided by e-mail supctfilings@sccourts.org by Thursday, May 20, 2021.

(2) All other lawyers in this 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.

(3) The lawyers who will be entering the Supreme Court Building will be allowed to enter the 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 a lawyer is actually presenting his or her argument 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.

(5) Depending on number of lawyers who will be present, seating may be assigned.

(6) Prior to your entry to the Supreme Court Building, the Courtroom and the Lobby, including its restrooms, will be sanitized. Further, the podium area will be

sanitized between the arguments by each lawyer. Therefore, you should expect some delay between the arguments of each lawyer. 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 return to your 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.", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

CLERK