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EXHIBIT

No. 7

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

COUNTY OF RICHLAND

FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Marie Assa'ad-Faltas,

Civil Action No. 2017-CP-40-06831

Applicant,

v.

**ORDER RELIEVING COUNSEL, APPOINTING
NEW COUNSEL, AND CONTINUING
EVIDENTIARY HEARING**

State of South Carolina,


Respondent.

2018 JAN 26 PM 2:09
JESSICA E. KINARD
STATE BAR OF S.C.

This matter comes before the Court upon Application for Post-Conviction Relief filed by Applicant Marie Assa'ad-Faltas ("Applicant") on November 8, 2017. By letter dated November 9, 2017, Jonathan Waller, Esquire, was appointed to represent Applicant. Applicant, *pro se*, filed motions to relieve counsel on December 5 and December 14, 2017. An evidentiary hearing was scheduled to occur on January 26, 2018, at the Richland County Judicial Center. Applicant and her counsel appeared. The State was represented by Jessica E. Kinard, Esquire.

Prior to the commencement of the evidentiary hearing, the Court heard arguments on Applicants motions to relieve Mr. Waller as her counsel. Applicant argued that she is capable of self-representation, that she has successfully done so in the past, and that she is entitled to pursuant to the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Although not discussed in oral argument, Applicant's December 5 motion also alleged that Mr. Waller has "shirked half his job at the outset." During an *in camera* hearing, Mr. Waller also argued that his relationship with Applicant has been irreparably broken.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Jonathan Waller's representation of Applicant shall be terminated pursuant to Rule 1.16 of the South Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 407, SCACR.


Page 1 of 2

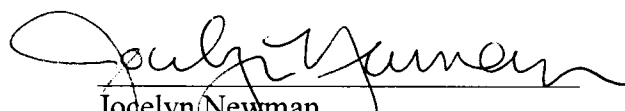
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Richland County Clerk of Court shall appoint new counsel to represent Applicant pursuant to Rule 608, SCACR.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Applicant shall be allowed to appear *pro se* **during the evidentiary hearing in this matter only** and shall be permitted, during that hearing, to examine witnesses, offer evidence, and present oral arguments. However, counsel shall handle all other aspects of Applicant's representation both before and after the evidentiary hearing including, but not limited to, any communication with the court or its staff and the filing of any documents.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that nothing contained herein shall be construed to overrule or amend anything contained in the Order issued by the Supreme Court of South Carolina on September 27, 2017, in Appellate Case No. 2013-000862; rather, all conditions contained in said Order shall remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the evidentiary hearing in this matter be continued to the March 19, 2018, term of court in Richland County; however, if appropriate, this matter may be continued upon the request of appointed counsel or by the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes for the Court of Common Pleas of this circuit.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.


Jocelyn Newman
Presiding Judge

January 26, 2018
Columbia, South Carolina.

MARIE ASSA'AD-FALTAS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

PLAINTIFF(S)

DEFENDANT(S)

Submitted by: NEWMAN, J.

Attorney for : Plaintiff Defendant
 or
 Self-Represented Litigant

DISPOSITION TYPE (CHECK ONE)

- JURY VERDICT.** This action came before the court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and a verdict rendered.
- DECISION BY THE COURT.** This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered. See Page 2 for additional information.
- ACTION DISMISSED (CHECK REASON):** Rule 12(b), SCRPC; Rule 41(a), SCRPC (Vol. Nonsuit); Rule 43(k), SCRPC (Settled); Other
- ACTION STRICKEN (CHECK REASON):** Rule 40(j), SCRPC; Bankruptcy; Binding arbitration, subject to right to restore to confirm, vacate or modify arbitration award; Other
- DISPOSITION OF APPEAL TO THE CIRCUIT COURT (CHECK APPLICABLE BOX):**
 Affirmed; Reversed; Remanded; Other

NOTE: ATTORNEYS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING LOWER COURT, TRIBUNAL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY OF THE CIRCUIT COURT RULING IN THIS APPEAL.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED: See attached order (formal order to follow) Statement of Judgment by the Court:

ORDER INFORMATION

This order ends does not end the case.

Additional Information for the Clerk :

INFORMATION FOR THE JUDGMENT INDEX

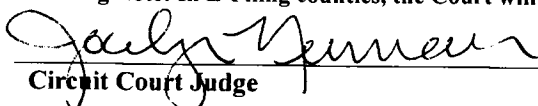
Complete this section below when the judgment affects title to real or personal property or if any amount should be enrolled. If there is no judgment information, indicate "N/A" in one of the boxes below.

Judgment in Favor of (List name(s) below)	Judgment Against (List name(s) below)	Judgment Amount To be Enrolled (List amount(s) below)
		\$
		\$
		\$

If applicable, describe the property, including tax map information and address, referenced in the order:

The judgment information above has been provided by the submitting party. Disputes concerning the amounts contained in this form may be addressed by way of motion pursuant to the SC Rules of Civil Procedure. Amounts to be computed such as interest or additional taxable costs not available at the time the form and final order are submitted to the judge may be provided to the clerk. **Note: Title abstractors and researchers should refer to the official court order for judgment details.**

E-Filing Note: In E-Filing counties, the Court will electronically sign this form using a separate electronic signature page.


 Circuit Court Judge

2757

Judge Code

January 26, 2018

Date

