

May 8, 2025

Horry County Clerk of Court

1301 2nd Ave

Conway, SC 29528

Brian M. Burton

157 Foxford Drive

Conway, SC 29526

(843) 655-1480

Bmburto2020@gmail.com

Re: CASE # 2024CP2601356 Brian Burton v. Brittany Hill.

To whom it may concern,

I am currently represented by Willey, Poolin, and Anastapoulo law firm. They are the firm that has filed the case above. Recently, this firm scheduled mediation for me on Friday, May 2, 2025, in Myrtle Beach at Bob Calamari Mediation. This firm gave me the wrong address, but I ended up finding the location and arrived at 10:02am. The mediator, Bob Calamari stated that my attorney hasn't arrived yet. At 10:35am there was still no attorney, so I contacted the law firm to notify them. About ten minutes later Mr. Calamari comes in with a laptop and says, "Your attorney is on zoom." Long story short, the attorney this firm assigned to cover mediation at the last minute was Chase Coble. Mr. Coble did not have any dealing with this case until the day of mediation. Mr. Coble was seen on camera, drinking a beer. Later during the meeting, Mr. Coble had to confer with another attorney and placed me on mute but did not turn off the camera. Mr. Coble then stands up to leave the room and exposes himself by not having any pants on. Mr. Coble comes back with the video still going and prompts his feet up on the desk and his legs spread wide open. A minute later, Mr. Coble puts his legs down and starts to rub his eyes and falls asleep for 4 to 5 minutes, then wakes up and turns the camera off. I notified Mr. Calamari that Mr. Coble was no longer on the zoom call. Mr. Calamari gets Mr. Coble's cell phone number from the

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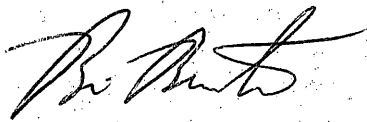
firm and has me call him. Mr. Coble answers the phone "Yeah?" I said, this is Brian Burton we were on a zoom call with mediation and you turned the zoom off. The attorney then starts to say in a slurred speech something about going to his car to take the call. I said, "You're going to take a zoom call from your car?" Mr. Coble replied, "You're right, that's probably not a good idea." I then meant to hit the mute button to speak privately with Mr. Calamari, but I accidentally hit the speaker button, and I said to Mr. Calamari, "He has been drinking, and I do not want to proceed." Mr. Coble then says, "You're right Brian, I have been drinking a little this morning." Mr. Calamari jumps in and says, "Maybe we should reschedule mediation for another day."

I contacted the law firm and ask to speak to someone higher up to discuss the matter and I was told for two days that someone would contact me. I finally get hold of Lane Jefferies and Mr. Jefferies apologizes and acts like it's not a big deal and even acknowledges that Mr. Coble has a drinking problem and wants to help him. I state to Mr. Jefferies that when this case first started, my then attorney Isaiah (I cannot recall his last name). stated that the defendant had a \$250,000 insurance policy and if their insurance did not want to settle that we would go to court and we would ask for \$250,000 and we would win based on the evidence. The offer made at mediation (Prior to Mr. Coble becoming completely inebriated) was \$100,000. I told Mr. Jefferies my expectations for a settlement were \$50,000. Mr. Jefferies stated that he could waive the legal fees and would see what we could get. I stated No, after the embarrassment and unprofessionalism that the firm displayed by having Mr. Coble represent me, I wanted \$50,000. This was to cover the settlement plus compensation for Mr. Coble's behavior of exposing himself to me while I have been a victim of sexual abuse in the past. I stated that I did have a letter written to the Office of Disciplinary Council (ODC) but I did not want to ruin someone's career, especially if the firm wanted to keep him with the firm. Mr. Jefferies stated "We would appreciate it if you didn't write to the ODC, but we understand that if you feel you need to, that it was your right to contact them." I stated that I would appreciate it if we could settle this case quickly as it has been dragging on for more than two years. Mr. Jefferies stated that he needs to talk with the other partners and would get back with me either later that afternoon or the next day.

On Wednesday, May 7, 2025, I received an email from Mr. Jefferies regarding a letter of intent to move for Relief as Counsel. (Please see email included in this letter.) In the email, Mr. Jefferies states it is because I was insistent that he pay me money or I threaten to send a letter to the ODC. That is NOT true!!! The money I was insistent on was involved around the value of my case plus compensation for the actions of Mr. Coble. Mr. Jefferies is making it sound like I was blackmailing him for millions of dollars.

I strongly oppose Mr. Jefferies' motion for Relief as Counsel. Mr. Jefferies' law firm has handled this case for over two years, and we are at the conclusion of it. To back out now would put in a financial burden by having to hire another attorney. Furthermore, Mr. Jefferies firm wasted my time on Friday May 2, 2025, by having me miss work to attend a "Circus" for mediation costing me approximately \$150 in lost wages and mileage for that day. I would ask that the court NOT allow Mr. Jefferies' firm to be relieved and instead settle this case with the defending party ASAP for the maximum amount possible. If the court should grant Mr. Jefferies' motion, I ask the court to at least order Mr. Jefferies' firm to compensate me for my lost wages and lost time for the embarrassment and unprofessional conduct by his firm.

Thanking the court in advance for your help,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian M. Burton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" being more prominent than the last name "Burton".

Brian M. Burton

Brian Burton

From: Brian Burton <bmburto2020@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 8:15 AM
To: Brian Burton
Subject: Fwd: Burton, Brian -- Notice of intent to move for Relief as Counsel

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lane Jefferies <lane@poulinwilley.com>
Date: Wed, May 7, 2025, 4:11 PM
Subject: Burton, Brian -- Notice of intent to move for Relief as Counsel
To: Brian Burton <bmburto2020@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Burton —

Thank your your time on the phone yesterday. Unfortunately, as result of the position you took during that call, we have no choice but to ask the court to relieve us as your counsel. The issue is your insistence that my firm pay you money in exchange for you not filing a complaint with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel concerning events that you told me occurred during mediation on Friday, May 2, 2025. Even after I explained to you that such an exchange of money for not making an ODC report is specifically forbidden by our rules of ethics, you continued to insist that we pay you. I told you that we simply cannot do that; if you have an issue that you think should be reported to ODC, then you should report it.

Unfortunately, your insistence on payment has created a conflict which precludes our continuing to represent you. Accordingly, we will soon make a Motion for Relief as Counsel, and I will provide you with a copy thereof.

Just to recap some facts, I became aware of your concerns the evening of Friday, May 2, 2025 when I read an email that you had sent to the SC Bar Client Assistance Program earlier that day. We immediately began investigating your allegations, and we took appropriate steps with the lawyer that was involved. On Monday, May 5, I called you in order to discuss how best to move forward with your case. Unfortunately, I was unable to reach you on either of the numbers you had provided to our office. Accordingly, I emailed you, to which you responded and we were able to speak by phone Tuesday afternoon, May 6, 2025. It was during that call that you insisted upon payment in exchange for not making an ODC report. As a result of that call I consulted with our external ethics counsel last evening, and we determined that we can no longer represent you.

I will provide you with a copy of our Motion for Relief as Counsel after it is filed. Please ask your new attorney to contact me and I will be glad to deliver the contents of your electronic file to them.

Best regards,
Lane Jefferies

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Lane D. Jefferies
Chief Operating Officer

Poulin | Willey Trial Lawyers
32 Ann Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Lane@PoulinWilley.com

Office locations throughout the Carolinas and Georgia.
Lane Jefferies is licensed to practice in South Carolina only.

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On May 7, 2025, at 14:56, Brian Burton <bmburto2020@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Jefferies,

Per our discussion yesterday, you stated you would give me a call later that day or sometime today. I just wanted to follow up to see where we are.

Thank you,

Brian Burton
843-655-1480

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