

The State of South Carolina



SOLICITOR

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Third Judicial Circuit
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July 24, 2025

T. Cruise Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General
South Carolina Attorney General's Office
Post Office Box 11549
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: State v. Michael Pearson
Amended PCR Application- 2024-CP-14-0261

Dear Attorney Mitchell:

I am writing to notify your office of my strong objection to the false and misleading allegations contained in the above-mentioned Amended PCR application dated June 28, 2025.

My office has been working with local law enforcement for months trying to investigate Mr. Pearson's involvement in the crime which sent him to prison. We followed leads which led us to believe he may not have been involved in the crime. We contacted his lawyers in North Carolina and informed them of a proposed hearing in Clarendon County before the Administrative Judge tentatively set for July 16, 2025, to have the matter ruled on the record, by the judge. The judge did not want to have this matter resolved by a consent order. During a telephone conference I informed Atty. Babb that after a conference with the victim's family I requested that his client consider and agree not to return to Clarendon County upon his release and that he would also agree to waive any civil damages claims against the victims or law enforcement. There was never any discussion of the release being conditioned upon these requests. There was never any demand or intent on my part to condition the release on these two requests. I simply was acting in the best interests of my victims and law enforcement, seeking fairness and avoiding conflict.

Atty. Babb did not call me back to discuss the decision of his client. He instead filed the Amended application the next day. He wrote that I was "interfering in delivering justice" adding, I was acting unethically.

I wanted your office to know that I take these allegations seriously and personally. I have done nothing to delay or impede the resolution of this matter. We have always followed the facts and acted upon them as the law requires. I have attached the e mails that were exchanged during our discussions.

As always, thank you for your willingness to assist us in the Third Circuit. I look forward to participating in the hearing before Judge Hood as soon as it is scheduled. Please call me if I can assist you in any way during this process.

Sincerely,

Ernest A. Finney, III

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