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Aug 02 2024

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In the Court of Appeals

COLLETON COUNTY  
Court of General Sessions  
The Honorable Clifton Newman

Appellate Case No. 2023-000392

The State ..... Respondent,

v.

Richard Alexander Murdaugh.....Appellant.

**APPELLANT RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH'S  
MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME**

Appellant Richard Alexander Murdaugh respectfully moves the Court to extend the time for filing and serving an initial brief and designation of matter by 120 days, to December 10, 2024. The Court previously extended the deadline by 90 days by order dated May 14, 2024.

Extraordinary circumstances justify this extension request. First, this is an appeal from what may be the longest criminal trial in the history of South Carolina, with six weeks of testimony, a trial transcript of nearly 6000 pages, over a dozen pretrial motions and hundreds of hearing transcript pages, and over 450 trial exhibits. Second, much of the time following the filing of the notice of appeal was consumed researching and litigating a motion for a new trial based on evidence discovered after trial that an elected state official tampered with the jury during trial because she wanted to profit from writing a book about a guilty verdict. This extraordinary

circumstance has never happened before. Third, the trial court found the tampering did in fact occur and a separate appeal is pending regarding the legal significance of that finding. The initial brief and designation of matter in that separate appeal, Appellate Case No. 2024-000576, is due on August 9, 2024, only one business day before the current deadline in this appeal. To ensure no further extensions will be needed, Appellant has requested a 120-day extension, nearly all of which will run after the completion of the opening brief in the appeal regarding jury tampering.

s/Richard A. Harpootlian

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August 2, 2024  
Columbia, South Carolina.

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Clifton Newman, Circuit Court Judge

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The State,

Respondent,

v.

Richard Alexander Murdaugh,

Appellant.

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I certify that on August 2, 2024, I served Appellant Richard Alexander Murdaugh's Motion for an Extension of Time by emailing it to its attorney of record with the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, Creighton Waters (CWaters@scag.gov).

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Richard A. Harpootlian

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