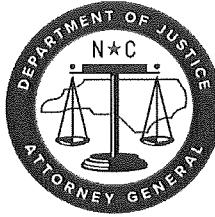


JOSH STEIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL



DERRICK C. MERTZ
APPELLATE SECTION
(919) 716-6500

December 13, 2018

Mr. Scott S. Harris, Clerk
Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20543

Re: Application for Extension of Time to File Response to Petition
for Writ of Certiorari in *Mario Andrette McNeill v. State of North Carolina*,
No. 18-6869.

Dear Mr. Harris:

I am counsel of record for the State of North Carolina in *Mario Andrette McNeill v. State of North Carolina*, No. 18-6869, docketed with this Court on November 29, 2018. The response of the State of North Carolina is currently due to be filed with this Court on or before December 31, 2018.

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 30(4), the State of North Carolina respectfully requests an extension of thirty days until January 31, 2019 to file its response. The undersigned is unable to prepare a response in the time required due to the press of other matters including a response to a petition for discretionary review due to the North Carolina Supreme Court in *State v. Bradley*, No. 429P18, a second degree murder involving an alleged serial killer; a brief due to be filed in the North Carolina Court of Appeals in *State v. Cheeks*, No. COA18-884, the first degree murder by starving of the defendant's stepson; pretrial preparations in a murder-for-hire case in Durham County, North Carolina involving four co-defendants; and an oral argument already given to our Court of Appeals in *State v. Smith*, No. COA18-518, another first degree murder.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Derrick C. Mertz
Special Deputy Attorney General

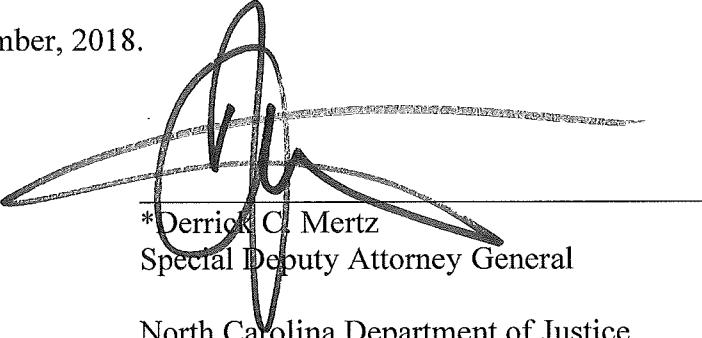
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Derrick C. Mertz, Special Deputy Attorney General for the State of North Carolina and a member of the bar of this Court, hereby certify that on December 13, 2018 a copy of the State of North Carolina's LETTER OF APPLICATION REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI, was served on petitioner's counsel of record, Andrew DeSimone, Assistant Appellate Defender, Office of the Appellate Defender, 123 West Main Street, Suite 500, Durham, North Carolina 27701, by first class mail, postage prepaid. I further certify that all parties required to be served have been served.

This the 13th day of December, 2018.



*Derrick C. Mertz
Special Deputy Attorney General

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*COUNSEL OF RECORD

DCM/blm
cc: Andrew DeSimone
Daniel K. Shatz