



Lynn Fitch
ATTORNEY GENERAL
CRIMINAL LITIGATION

June 16, 2025

Honorable Scott Harris
Clerk of the Court
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, DC 20543

VIA USPS FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Re: *Terry Pitchford v. Mississippi*, No. 24-7351

Dear Mr. Harris,

I am counsel for the Respondent, the State of Mississippi (“the State”), in the above-referenced case. Terry Pitchford, a Mississippi death row inmate, filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari with the Court on May 28, 2025. Absent an extension, the State’s response is due July 3, 2025. The State respectfully requests that the time for filing a response be extended by thirty days, making it due August 4, 2025.

The State needs more time to prepare an adequate response. This is the State’s first request for more time. Good cause exists for granting this request. Undersigned counsel’s competing obligations, deadlines, and assistance in other capital cases in state and federal courts prevents her from completing the response before the current deadline. For example, undersigned counsel is lead counsel for the State in the case of *Richard Gerald Jordan v. State*. The Mississippi Supreme Court set Jordan’s execution for June 25, 2025. En Banc Order, *Jordan v. State*, 1998-DP-00901-SCT (Miss. May 1, 2025). Litigation to prevent Jordan’s execution is ongoing in this Court, *Jordan v. Mississippi*, No. 24-959 and No. 24A1143; the Mississippi Supreme Court, *Jordan v. State*, 1998-DP-00901-SCT (Miss.) and No. 2025-DR-01272 (Miss.); and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, *Jordan v. Cain*, No. 3:15-cv-295-HTW-LGI (S.D. Miss.). Additionally, undersigned counsel is drafting the State’s response in opposition to death row inmate Blayde Grayson’s petition for a Certification of Appealability in the Fifth Circuit, which is due on June 30, 2025. *Grayson v. Fitch*, No. 25-7001 (5th Cir.).

The requested extension is necessary to ensure the State has an adequate opportunity to review and respond to the Petition for Writ of Certiorari in light of counsel’s other commitments. The requested extension will also better enable undersigned counsel to prepare a response that will be most helpful to the Court. Granting it will not prejudice petitioner. And it is not made in bad faith, to create delay, or for any other improper purpose.



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Accordingly, the State respectfully requests a thirty-day extension of time, until August 4, 2025, to file a response to Pitchford's Petition for Writ of Certiorari.

Sincerely,

/s/ Allison Kay Hartman
Allison Kay Hartman
Special Assistant Attorney General
Mississippi Attorney General's Office
Counsel for Respondent



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Undersigned counsel certifies that one true copy of the foregoing letter motion for more time has been served on petitioner's counsel, Joseph Perkovich, by USPS first-class mail:

JOSEPH PERKOVICH
P.O. Box 3547
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This, the 16th day of June, 2025.

LYNN FITCH
Attorney General of Mississippi

/s/ Allison Kay Hartman
Allison Kay Hartman
Special Assistant Attorney General
Mississippi Attorney General's Office
Counsel for Respondent