

OCTOBER TERM, 2026

No. _____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

LAVAR BROWN,
Petitioner,

v.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
Respondent.

On Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE IN FORMA PAUPERIS

Petitioner Lavar Brown, through undersigned counsel, moves pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 39.1 for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* in his concurrently filed Petition for Writ of Certiorari. Petitioner is indigent; he has sought *in forma pauperis* and been appointed counsel throughout all prior proceedings including trial, direct appeal, state collateral proceedings, federal habeas proceedings, and the appeal of his state collateral proceedings at issue here. Below, counsel was granted indigency and appointed counsel for state collateral proceedings in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas; the Pennsylvania Superior Court granted continuation of *in forma pauperis* status for purposes of appeal; and likewise, on September 24, 2024, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court granted continuation of that status for further appeal under Rule 551 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Appellate Procedure, as reflected in the attached docket sheet.

Undersigned counsel hereby certifies that Mr. Brown is incarcerated and remains indigent at present. Mr. Brown respectfully requests that this Court allow him to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Samuel Angell

Samuel Angell*

Tracy Ulstad

Andrew Childers

Federal Community Defender Office

for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Capital Habeas Corpus Unit

Suite 545-W, The Curtis Center

Independence Square West

Philadelphia, PA 19106

(215) 928-0520

Samuel_Angell@fd.org

*Counsel of Record and Member of the Bar of
the Supreme Court

Dated: October 14, 2026

Counsel for Petitioner Lavar Brown

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania



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CAPTION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

v.

Lavar Brown

Petition of: Family Members of Murder Victims Michael Richardson and Robert Crawford

CASE INFORMATION

Initiating Document: Application for Extraordinary Relief

Case Status: Closed

Journal Number: J-6-2025 March 5, 2025

Case Category: Criminal

Case Type(s): Kings Bench

CONSOLIDATED CASES

RELATED CASES

COUNSEL INFORMATION

Attorney: Tumolo, Louis

Address: The Beasley Firm LLC
1125 Walnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone No: (609) 605-5859

Receive Mail: Yes

Receive EMail: Yes

Email:

Representing: Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford, Petitioner

Pro Se: No

IFP Status:

Attorney: Lynett, Christopher Patrick

Address: Keches Law Group, P.C.
620 Sentry Pkwy
Ste 210
Blue Bell, PA 19422

Phone No: (570) 510-1690

Receive Mail: Yes

Receive EMail: Yes

Email:

Representing: Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford, Petitioner

Pro Se: No

IFP Status:

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COUNSEL INFORMATION

Attorney: Angell, Samuel J. B.
 Federal Community Defender Office, Eastern District of PA
 Address: Fed Comm Defender Office
 170 S Independence Mall W Ste 545w
 Philadelphia, PA 19106-3333
 Phone No: (215) 928-0520
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: Brown, Lavar, Respondent
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status: Pa.R.A.P. 551

Attorney: Gaeta, Thomas Charles
 Philadelphia District Attorney's Office of Open Records
 Address: Philadelphia District Attorney's Office
 3 S Penn Sq
 Philadelphia, PA 19107
 Phone No: (215) 686-9948
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Respondent
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status:

Attorney: Childers, Andrew Reed
 Federal Community Defender Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
 Address: Federal Community Defender Office Ed Of Pa
 601 Walnut St Ste 545 W
 Moorestown, PA 08057
 Phone No: (856) 924-9526
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: Brown, Lavar, Respondent
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status: Pa.R.A.P. 551

Attorney: Ernst, Katherine Elizabeth
 Philadelphia District Attorney's Office
 Address: 3 S Penn Sq
 Philadelphia, PA 19107
 Phone No: (215) 850-1448
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Respondent
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status:

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COUNSEL INFORMATION

Attorney: Kane, Timothy Patrick
 Federal Community Defender Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
 Address: Federal Public Defender's Ofc
 601 Walnut St Ste 545
 Philadelphia, PA 19106-3314
 Phone No: (215) 928-0520
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: Brown, Lavar, Respondent
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status: Pa.R.A.P. 551

Attorney: Osborne, David M.
 Address: 601 Walnut St Ste 545 W
 Philadelphia, PA 19106
 Phone No: (215) 928-0520
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: Brown, Lavar, Respondent
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status: Pa.R.A.P. 551

Attorney: Ulstad, Tracy L.
 Federal Community Defender's Office, Eastern District of Michigan
 Address: Federal Community Defense
 Independence Sq W Ste 545 W
 Philadelphia, PA 19106
 Phone No: (215) 868-6218
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: Brown, Lavar, Respondent
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status: Pa.R.A.P. 551

Attorney: Bluestine, Marissa Boyers
 Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice
 Address: Quattrone Center Fair Admin Justice
 3501 Sansom St
 Cheltenham, PA 19104
 Phone No: (215) 898-6073
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: The Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the Univ. of Pa. Carey Law School,
 Philadelphia, PA, Amicus Curiae
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status:

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COUNSEL INFORMATION

Attorney:	Bookman, Marc Alan	
	Atlantic Center for Capital Representation, Philadelphia PA	
Address:	Atlantic Ctr For Capital Representation 1315 Walnut St Ste 905 Philadelphia, PA 19107	
Phone No:	(215) 805-9341	
Receive Mail:	Yes	
Receive EMail:	Yes	Email:
Representing:	Philadelphia Defense Counsel, Amicus Curiae	
Pro Se:	No	
IFP Status:		
Attorney:	Bunting, Kelly Dobbs	
	Greenberg Traurig, LLP	
Address:	Greenberg Traurig Llp 1717 Arch St Ste 400 Philadelphia, PA 19103	
Phone No:	(215) 988-7858	
Receive Mail:	Yes	
Receive EMail:	Yes	Email:
Representing:	Kennedy, Christopher, Amicus Curiae	
Pro Se:	No	
IFP Status:		
Representing:	Richardson, Jamaar, Amicus Curiae	
Pro Se:	No	
IFP Status:		
Representing:	Richardson, James, Amicus Curiae	
Pro Se:	No	
IFP Status:		
Attorney:	Cioschi, Jonathan David	
Address:	5150 Cedar Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19143	
Receive Mail:	Yes	
Representing:	41 Current and Former Elected and Appointed Prosecutors and DOJ Officials Supporting Respondents, Amicus Curiae	
Pro Se:	No	
IFP Status:		
Attorney:	Davy, James Patrick	
	All Rise Trial & Appellate	
Address:	P.o. Box 15216 Philadelphia, PA 19125	
Phone No:	(215) 792-3579	
Receive Mail:	Yes	
Receive EMail:	Yes	Email:
Representing:	Legal Ethics Scholars, Amicus Curiae	
Pro Se:	No	
IFP Status:		

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COUNSEL INFORMATION

Attorney:	Eisenberg, Ronald		
Address:	Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office 1600 Arch St Philadelphia, PA 19103		
Phone No:	(267) 940-6676		
Receive Mail:	Yes		
Representing:	Office of Attorney General, Amicus Curiae		
Pro Se:	No		
IFP Status:			

Attorney:	Fritzinger, Arthur P.		
Address:	Cozen O'Connor 1650 Market St Ste 2800 Philadelphia, PA 19103		
Phone No:	(215) 665-7264		
Receive Mail:	Yes		
Receive EMail:	Yes	Email:	
Representing:	Former Judges and Prosecutors, Amicus Curiae		
Pro Se:	No		
IFP Status:			

Attorney:	Karparkin, Jeremy Charles		
Address:	Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP 601 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington, DC 20001		
Phone No:	(202) 942-5564		
Receive Mail:	Yes		
Receive EMail:	Yes	Email:	
Representing:	Professors of Criminal Law and Procedure, Amicus Curiae		
Pro Se:	No		
IFP Status:			

Attorney:	Merken, Christopher James Rogers		
Address:	Fisher Phillips LLP 100 N 18TH St Fl 12 Philadelphia, PA 19103		
Phone No:	(610) 230-6119		
Receive Mail:	Yes		
Receive EMail:	Yes	Email:	
Representing:	Conviction Integrity Units, Amicus Curiae		
Pro Se:	No		
IFP Status:			

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COUNSEL INFORMATION

Attorney: Stapleton, John Stephen
 Stapleton Segal Cochran LLC
 Address: 1760 Market St Ste 403
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Phone No: (856) 259-3300
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: The Pennsylvania Innocence Project and The Innocence Network, Amicus Curiae
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status:

Attorney: Affronti, Susan Elizabeth
 Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
 Address: 1600 Arch Street, Suite 300
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Phone No: (484) 395-5143
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: Office of Attorney General, Amicus Curiae
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status:

Attorney: Burns, Hugh J., Jr.
 Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, 16th Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg, PA
 Address: Pa Office Of Attorney General
 1600 Arch St Ste 300
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Phone No: (215) 429-2968
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: Office of Attorney General, Amicus Curiae
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status:

Attorney: Crow, Brett
 Cozen O'Connor
 Address: 1650 Market St Ste 2800
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Phone No: (215) 821-1754
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Receive EMail: Yes Email:
 Representing: Former Judges and Prosecutors, Amicus Curiae
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status:

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COUNSEL INFORMATION

Attorney: Sunday, David Winslow
 Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
 Address: PA Office of Attorney General
 Strawberry Square, 14th Floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17120
 Receive Mail: Yes
 Representing: Office of Attorney General, Amicus Curiae
 Pro Se: No
 IFP Status:

FEE INFORMATION

Fee Dt	Fee Name	Fee Amt	Receipt Dt	Receipt No	Receipt Amt
05/26/2023	Extraordinary / Plenary Jurisdiction	70.25	05/26/2023	2023-SUP-E-000653	70.25
06/20/2024	2nd Motion for Extension of Time	10.00	06/20/2024	2024-SUP-E-000754	10.00

AGENCY/TRIAL COURT INFORMATION

Court Below: Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas
 County: Philadelphia Division: Philadelphia County Criminal Division
 Date of Agency/Trial Court Order:
 Docket Number: CP-51-CR-0407441-2004
 Judge(s): Bronson, Glenn B. OTN:
 Order Type:

ORIGINAL RECORD CONTENT

Original Record Item	Filed Date	Content/Description
Part(s)	April 18, 2024	27 - Folder 1 of 2
Testimony	April 18, 2024	16 - Folder 2 of 2
Exhibit(s)	April 18, 2024	2

Record Remittal: September 9, 2026

BRIEFING SCHEDULE

BRIEFING SCHEDULE

Amicus Curiae

Respondent

41 Current and Former Elected and Appointed
 Prosecutors and DOJ Officials Supporting Respondents
 Brief

Brief

Due: October 7, 2024

Filed: October 7, 2024

Conviction Integrity Units

Brief

Due: October 7, 2024

Filed: October 7, 2024

Former Judges and Prosecutors

Brief

Due: October 7, 2024

Filed: October 7, 2024

Legal Ethics Scholars

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania



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Brown, Lavar

Brief

Due: October 7, 2024

Filed: October 25, 2024

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

COUNSEL INFORMATION

Brief

Due: October 7, 2024

Filed: October 25, 2024

Supplemental Reproduced Record

Due: October 7, 2024

Filed: October 7, 2024

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BRIEFING SCHEDULE

Amicus Curiae**Legal Ethics Scholars****Brief**

Due: October 7, 2024

Filed: October 7, 2024

Office of Attorney General**Brief**

Due: July 12, 2024

Filed: August 15, 2024

Reply Brief

Due: December 4, 2024

Filed: December 4, 2024

Philadelphia Defense Counsel**Brief**

Due: October 7, 2024

Filed: October 7, 2024

Professors of Criminal Law and Procedure**Brief**

Due: October 7, 2024

Filed: October 7, 2024

**The Pennsylvania Innocence Project and The
Innocence Network****Brief**

Due: October 7, 2024

Filed: October 7, 2024

**The Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of
Justice at the Univ. of Pa. Carey Law School,
Philadelphia, PA****Brief**

Due: July 12, 2024

Filed: July 12, 2024

Petitioner**Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and
Crawford****Brief**

Due: July 12, 2024

Filed: July 12, 2024

Reply Brief

Due: November 12, 2024

Filed: November 12, 2024

Reproduced Record

Due: July 12, 2024

Filed: July 12, 2024

SESSION INFORMATION

Journal Number: J-6-2025

Listed/Submitted Date: March 5, 2025

Consideration Type: Oral Argument Supreme Ct.

DISPOSITION INFORMATION

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DISPOSITION INFORMATION

Related Journal No:	J-6-2025	Judgment Date:	
Category:	Decided	Disposition Author:	Dougherty, Kevin M.
Disposition:	Reversed/Remanded	Disposition Date:	June 16, 2026
Dispositional Filing:	Majority Opinion	Author:	Dougherty, Kevin M.
Filed Date:	June 16, 2026		
Justice:	Mundy, Sallie U.	Vote:	Join Majority Opinion
Justice:	Brobson, P. Kevin	Vote:	Join Majority Opinion
Justice:	McCaffery, Daniel D.	Vote:	Join Majority Opinion
Dispositional Filing:	Concurring Opinion	Author:	Brobson, P. Kevin
Filed Date:	June 16, 2026		
Justice:	Mundy, Sallie U.	Vote:	Join Concurring Opinion
Dispositional Filing:	Concurring Opinion	Author:	McCaffery, Daniel D.
Filed Date:	June 16, 2026		
Dispositional Filing:	Concurring/Dissenting Opinion	Author:	Donohue, Christine
Filed Date:	June 16, 2026		
Justice:	Todd, Debra	Vote:	Join Concurring and Dissenting Opinion
Dispositional Filing:	Dissenting Opinion	Author:	Wecht, David N.
Filed Date:	June 16, 2026		

DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Representing	Participant Type	Filed By
May 26, 2023	Petition for Exercise of King's Bench	Jurisdiction Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
May 30, 2023	Application for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Memorandum in Support of Petition	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General
June 9, 2023	Praecepte for Appearance Brown, Lavar	Respondent	Childers, Andrew Reed

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DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Representing	Participant Type	Filed By
June 9, 2023	Answer to Petition for Exercise of King's Bench Jurisdiction	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
June 9, 2023	Answer to Petition for Exercise of King's Bench Jurisdiction	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
June 12, 2023	Phila. D.A.'s NAL to Application for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Memorandum in Support of Petition	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
June 13, 2023	NAL to Application for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Memorandum in Support of Petition (Brown)	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
June 21, 2023	Applic. for Leave to File Amicus Reply to Responses to the Petition for King's Bench Jurisdiction	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General
June 30, 2023	Answer by L Brown in opposition to the Appl. of the Ofc of Attny Gen to File Amicus Curiae Reply Res	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
April 3, 2024	Order Granting Petition for Exercise of King's Bench Jurisdiction		Per Curiam

Comments:

AND NOW, this 3rd day of April, 2024, upon consideration of the Petition for Exercise of King's Bench Jurisdiction filed by the Family Members of Murder Victims Michael Richardson and Robert Crawford (King's Bench Petition), the Application for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Memorandum In Support of Petition for Exercise of King's Bench Jurisdiction (Application to File Memorandum) filed by the Office of Attorney General (OAG), and the Application for Leave to File Amicus Reply to Responses (Application to File Responses) also filed by the OAG, and the various answers thereto, it is hereby ordered:

1. The Application to File Memorandum and the Application to File Responses are hereby GRANTED, and the Prothonotary is hereby directed to docket the Memorandum and Responses attached to the applications.
2. The King's Bench Petition is GRANTED, and the Court hereby exercises King's Bench jurisdiction to review the May 5, 2023 Order of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County in Commonwealth v. Brown (CP-51-CR-0407441-2004), vacating the judgment of sentence entered by the court on October 24, 2004, pursuant to the Post Conviction Relief Act (PCRA), 42 Pa. C.S. §§ 9541-9546.
3. The parties are directed to brief the following issue, as framed by the Court:
Whether, and via what procedure, a common pleas court judge may grant PCRA relief based upon concessions of the parties. See Commonwealth v. Brown, 196 A.3d 130 (Pa. 2018).
4. A briefing schedule will follow. The Prothonotary is directed to list this matter for oral argument. (See Pa. Supreme Court IOP § 3(A)(2)(c) ("The following cases shall be listed for oral argument . . . upon completion of the briefing schedule or as soon as practicable: "All other cases that have been designated by the Court as suitable for argument."))
5. The OAG is invited to participate as amicus as well as participate in oral argument.

April 3, 2024	Order Exited		Office of the Prothonotary
April 3, 2024	Amicus Filing in Support of Victims' Families' King's Bench Petition	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General

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Filed Date	Docket Entry / Representing	Participant Type	Filed By
April 3, 2024	Amicus Reply to Responses	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General
April 18, 2024	Trial Court Record Received		Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas
May 28, 2024	Application for Extension of Time to File Brief - First Request	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
May 29, 2024	Order Granting Application for Extension of Time to File Petitioner Brief		Rothermel, Steven
Comments: AND NOW, this 29th day of May, 2024, the "Victims' Families' Unopposed Application for Extension of Time to File Brief" is GRANTED. Petitioners' brief is now due in this Court on or before June 28, 2024.			
May 29, 2024	Order Exited		Office of the Prothonotary
June 20, 2024	Praecipe for Appearance Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford	Petitioner	Lynett, Christopher Patrick
June 20, 2024	Application for Extension of Time to File Brief - Second Request	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
June 28, 2024	Order Granting Application for Extension of Time to File Petitioner Brief		Gorman, Kaitlin A.
Comments: AND NOW, this 28th day of June, 2024, the "Victims' Families Unopposed Application for a Two-Week Extension of Time to File Their Opening Brief" is GRANTED. Petitioners' brief is now due in this Court on or before July 12, 2024.			
June 28, 2024	Order Exited		Office of the Prothonotary
July 12, 2024	Appellant's Brief and Reproduced Record Combined	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
July 12, 2024	Amicus Curiae Brief	Amicus Curiae	The Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the Univ. of Pa. Carey Law School, Philadelphia, PA
July 12, 2024	Application to Exceed Page/Word Limitations	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General
July 25, 2024	No Answer Letter to Application	Respondent	Brown, Lavar

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Filed Date	Docket Entry / Representing	Participant Type	Filed By
July 27, 2024	No Answer Letter to Application	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
August 6, 2024	Application for Extension of Time to File Brief (Lavar Brown)	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
August 6, 2024	Application for Extension of Time to File Brief (Commonwealth of Pa.)	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
August 8, 2024	Order Granting Application for Extension of Time to File Respondent Brief		Rothermel, Steven
Comments: AND NOW, this 8th day of August, 2024, Respondent Lavar Brown's application for an extension of time to file a brief is GRANTED. Respondent Lavar Brown's brief is now due in this Court on or before September 30, 2024.			
August 8, 2024	Order Exited		Office of the Prothonotary
August 8, 2024	Order Granting Application for Extension of Time to File Respondent Brief		Rothermel, Steven
Comments: AND NOW, this 8th day of August, 2024, Respondent Commonwealth's application for an extension of time to file a brief is GRANTED. Respondent Commonwealth's brief is now due in this Court on or before September 30, 2024.			
August 8, 2024	Order Exited		Office of the Prothonotary
August 15, 2024	Order Granting Application to Exceed Page/Word Limitations		Per Curiam
Comments: AND NOW, this 15th day of August, 2024, the Application to Exceed Word Limit is GRANTED, to the extent the Office of Attorney General seeks to submit an amicus curiae brief containing 14,794 words. The Prothonotary is DIRECTED to accept the brief attached to the Application for filing.			
In all other respects, the Application is DENIED.			
August 15, 2024	Order Exited		Office of the Prothonotary
August 15, 2024	Amicus Curiae Brief	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General
September 23, 2024	Application for Extension of Time to File Brief - Second Request	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
September 24, 2024	Verified Statement in Support of Continuation of IFP Status	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
September 24, 2024	In Forma Pauperis Continued		Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Representing	Participant Type	Filed By
September 25, 2024	Order Granting Application for Extension of Time to File Respondent Brief		Rothermel, Steven
Comments: AND NOW, this 25th day of September, 2024, Respondent Lavar Brown's application for an extension of time to file a brief is GRANTED. Respondents' briefs are now due in this Court on or before October 7, 2024. No further extensions of time shall be granted absent extraordinary circumstances.			
September 25, 2024	Order Exited		Office of the Prothonotary
October 3, 2024	Praeipce for Appearance Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Respondent	Ernst, Katherine Elizabeth
October 7, 2024	Praeipce for Appearance Brown, Lavar	Respondent	Kane, Timothy Patrick
October 7, 2024	Application to Exceed Page/Word Limitations	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
October 7, 2024	Amicus Curiae Brief	Amicus Curiae	Professors of Criminal Law and Procedure
October 7, 2024	Amicus Curiae Brief	Amicus Curiae	41 Current and Former Elected and Appointed Prosecutors and DOJ Officials Supporting Respondents
October 7, 2024	Amicus Curiae Brief	Amicus Curiae	The Pennsylvania Innocence Project and The Innocence Network
October 7, 2024	Application to Exceed Page/Word Limitations	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
October 7, 2024	Amicus Curiae Brief	Amicus Curiae	Conviction Integrity Units
October 7, 2024	Amicus Curiae Brief	Amicus Curiae	Former Judges and Prosecutors
October 7, 2024	Amicus Curiae Brief	Amicus Curiae	Legal Ethics Scholars
October 7, 2024	Supplemental Reproduced Record Filed	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
October 7, 2024	Amicus Curiae Brief	Amicus Curiae	Philadelphia Defense Counsel

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October 18, 2024	No Answer Letter to Application to Exceed Page/Word Limitations	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
October 25, 2024	Order Granting Application to Exceed Page/Word Limitations		Rothermel, Steven
Comments:			
AND NOW, this 25th day of October, 2024, Respondents' applications to exceed the word limit are GRANTED.			
October 25, 2024	Order Exited		Office of the Prothonotary
October 25, 2024	Respondent's Brief	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
October 25, 2024	Respondent's Brief	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
November 12, 2024	Petitioner's Reply Brief	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
November 12, 2024	Motion of Office of Attorney General as Court-Invited Amicus for Leave to File Reply Brief	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General
November 13, 2024	No Answer Letter to Motion of Office of Attorney General as Court-Invited Amicus for Leave to File R	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
November 18, 2024	No Answer Letter to Motion of Office of Attorney General as Court-Invited Amicus for Leave to File R	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
November 21, 2024	Motion of Office of Att. Gen. as Court-Invited Amicus Curiae For Leave to File Corrected Reply Brief	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General
November 25, 2024	No Answer to Motion of Office of Att. Gen. Curiae For Leave to File Corrected Reply Brief	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
November 25, 2024	No Answer to Motion of Office of Att. Gen. Curiae For Leave to File Corrected Reply Brief	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
December 4, 2024	Order Granting Motion of Office of Attorney General as Court-Invited Amicus for Leave to File Reply		Dreibelbis, Amy
Comments:			
AND NOW, this 4th day of December, 2024, the "Motion of Office of Attorney General as Court-Invited Amicus for Leave to File Corrected Reply Brief" is GRANTED.			
December 4, 2024	Order Exited		Office of the Prothonotary

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DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Representing	Participant Type	Filed By
December 4, 2024	Amicus Curiae Reply Brief	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General
January 16, 2025	Acknowledgement of Argument Notice Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford	Petitioner	Lynett, Christopher Patrick
January 16, 2025	Acknowledgement of Argument Notice Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Respondent	Ernst, Katherine Elizabeth
January 16, 2025	Acknowledgement of Argument Notice Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford	Petitioner	Tumolo, Louis
January 21, 2025	Acknowledgement of Argument Notice Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford	Petitioner	Lynett, Christopher Patrick
January 22, 2025	Acknowledgement of Argument Notice Brown, Lavar	Respondent	Kane, Timothy Patrick
January 28, 2025	Acknowledgement of Argument Notice Office of Attorney General	Amicus Curiae	Eisenberg, Ronald
March 3, 2025	Respondent Lavar Browns Pre-Submission Application to Notify the Court of Recent Authority	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
March 3, 2025	No Answer Letter to Respondent Lavar Browns Pre-Submission Application to Notify the Court of Recent	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
March 3, 2025	Petitioners Pre- Submission Application to Notify Court of Recent Court Proceedings	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
March 4, 2025	Answer to Petitioners Pre- Submission Application to Notify Court of Recent Court Proceedings	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
March 5, 2025	Argued Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford Office of Attorney General Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Brown, Lavar	Petitioner Amicus Curiae Respondent Respondent	Lynett, Christopher Patrick Eisenberg, Ronald Ernst, Katherine Elizabeth Kane, Timothy Patrick
March 10, 2025	No Answer Petitioners Pre- Submission Application to Notify Court of Recent Court Proceedings	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
March 11, 2025	Application for Leave to File Post-Submission Communication Addressing Oral Argument Misstatements	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General

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DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Representing	Participant Type	Filed By
March 11, 2025	Attorney General Request for leave to file answer "Pre-submission Application"	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General
March 20, 2025	Answer to Application for Leave to File Post-Submission Communication Addressing Oral Argument	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
March 24, 2025	Answer to Application for Relief	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
March 24, 2025	Answer to Application for Relief	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
April 9, 2025	Commonwealth's Appl For Leave To File Post-Submission Communication to Clarify Incomplete Statement	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
April 23, 2025	Answer to Commonwealth's Appl For Leave To File Post-Submission Communication to Clarify Incomplete	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
April 23, 2025	No Answer to Commonwealth's Appl For Leave To File Post-Submission Communication to Clarify	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
July 28, 2025	Post-Submission Communication Pa.R.A.P. 2501B - Change in Status	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
July 31, 2025	Post-Submission Communication Pa.R.A.P. 2501B - Change in Status	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
August 1, 2025	Post-Submission Communication Pa.R.A.P. 2501B - Change in Status	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
September 5, 2025	Application for Leave to File Post-Submission Communication	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
September 17, 2025	No Answer Letter to Application for Leave to File Post-Submission Communication	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
December 5, 2025	Praeipie for Appearance Office of Attorney General	Amicus Curiae	Affronti, Susan Elizabeth
December 5, 2025	Emergency Petition of the Attorney General of the Pa. to Stay Related Proceedings in the Phila. CCP	Amicus Curiae	Office of Attorney General
December 8, 2025	Answer to Emergency Petition of the Attorney General of the Pa. to Stay Related Proceedings	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford

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DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Representing	Participant Type	Filed By
December 9, 2025	Application for Leave to File Amicus Brief	Amicus Curiae Amicus Curiae Amicus Curiae	Richardson, Jamaar Richardson, James Kennedy, Christopher
December 9, 2025	Answer to Emergency Petition of the Attorney General of the Pa. to Stay Related Proceedings	Respondent	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
December 9, 2025	No Answer to Emergency Petition of the Attorney General of the Pa. to Stay Related Proceedings	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
December 10, 2025	No Answer Letter to Application for Leave to File Amicus Brief	Respondent	Brown, Lavar
December 10, 2025	Answer Letter to Application for Leave to File Amicus Brief	Petitioner	Family Members of, Murder Victims Richardson and Crawford
December 12, 2025	Order Denying Application for Emergency Relief		Per Curiam

Comments:

AND NOW, this 12th day of December, 2025, The Motion for Leave to file an amicus brief filed by counsel representing Jamaar Richardson, James Richardson, and Christopher Kennedy is GRANTED. The Emergency Petition of the Attorney General of Pennsylvania to Stay Related Proceedings in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas is DENIED.

December 12, 2025	Order Exited		Office of the Prothonotary
December 12, 2025	Answer to Emergency Petition of the AG of PA to Stay Related Proceedings in Phila CCP	Amicus Curiae Amicus Curiae Amicus Curiae	Richardson, Jamaar Richardson, James Kennedy, Christopher
June 16, 2026	Reversed/Remanded		Dougherty, Kevin M.

Comments:

The order of the PCRA court is reversed and the matter is remanded to that court for further proceedings consistent with this opinion.

Justices Mundy, Brobson and McCaffery join the opinion.

Justice Brobson files a concurring opinion in which Justice Mundy joins.

Justice McCaffery files a concurring opinion

Justice Donohue files a concurring and dissenting opinion in which Chief Justice Todd joins .

Justice Wecht files a dissenting opinion.

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DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Representing	Participant Type	Filed By
June 16, 2026	Judgment Entered		Office of the Prothonotary
September 9, 2026	Remitted		Supreme Court of Pennsylvania