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MAY 27 2009
S.C. SUPREME COURT
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May 27, 2009

The Supreme Court of South Carolina
Columbia, SC

Re: Edwards v. South Carolina

May It Please the Court:

As the Notice we filed today states, this case has been removed to the Federal Court for South Carolina. I wish to explain our action and to make clear that we mean no disrespect to this Court in removing.

When the Governor reviewed the Edwards case, it became clear that he should be a party to that case to defend the interests of his office. The Governor further concluded that, since two actions involving the same issues already are in federal court, the Edwards case should be removed and joined with them along with a request for expedited resolution. The Governor further concluded that, since two actions involving the same issues already are in federal court, the Edwards case should be removed and joined with them along with a request for expedited resolution. Judge Anderson has scheduled a hearing on jurisdiction on Monday, June 1, so the federal issues may be expected to be quickly resolved.

The Governor has asked me to make it particularly clear that he holds the Court in the highest regard and means no slight to this Court in removing the Edwards case. We submit that consolidating the three cases involving federal law in one forum will mean that the issues will be decided quickly in accordance with the needs of the people of South Carolina.

Very truly yours,


John W. Foster

JWF/ssh