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**DEBORAH B. BARBIER:**

Three years ago on July 6, 2012 Montell Cousar was charged with the Murder of Eddie Hall by the State of South Carolina. He was arrested on July 11<sup>th</sup> of that year. An indictment was not presented to the grand jury until September 10, 2013 – more than a year after he was arrested on this charge. Mr. Cousar spent almost two years in prison on this murder charge until he was finally given a bond in February of 2014.

On May 19, 2015, the co-Defendant Keith Keener pled guilty to the killing of Eddie Hall and testified that Montell Cousar had no involvement in this crime.

On July 6, 2015 – three years from the date Montell Cousar was charged with this crime, the Indictment was finally dismissed by the Attorney General for the State of South Carolina.

According to his attorney Deborah Barbier, Mr. Cousar and she have maintained his innocence since the beginning of this case. Barbier is mindful that a life was lost due to senseless violence, but is relieved that another tragedy has been averted in that an innocent man is not going to jail for a crime that he did not committ. Mr. Keener's plea of guilty to this heinous crime and the exoneration of Mr. Cousar, has come at great physical and emotional expense to Mr. Cousar and his family.

This case serves as a reminder that everyone in this country is innocent until proven guilty.

Barbier wants to thank all of Mr. Cousar's family, friends and supporters. He appreciates the outpouring of support during the three years he was wrongly accused of murder.

All press inquiries should be made to Deborah Barbier (803) 730-6290.

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