



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOVERNOR

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May 31, 2016

The Honorable Costa M. Pleicones
Supreme Court of South Carolina
1231 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chief Justice Pleicones,

Let me begin by thanking you, former Chief Justice Toal, and your staff for your active and essential role in the Domestic Violence Task Force. With your assistance, we have begun to reform the culture of domestic violence in our state. We know that victims rely on the courts for protection, justice, and closure, and anything we can do to improve those government services, we should.

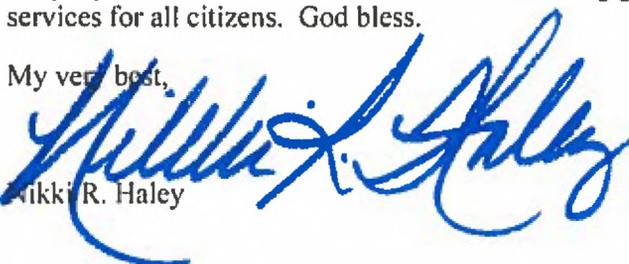
Beyond domestic violence reform, I would welcome the opportunity to partner with you on other government reforms. My office often receives complaints about the inefficiency of government services, and where I have authority, such as in my Cabinet agencies and with my board and commission appointees, I often require them to review operations to determine more efficient, transparent, and less costly ways of doing business.

Two recent instances include: (1) my charge to the South Carolina's Workers Compensation Commission to reduce the turnaround time on Commission orders; and (2) my directive to my Cabinet agencies to conduct an internal audit to determine if all cell phones, e-mail accounts, land telephone lines, desktop printers, laptops, state vehicles, and any other equipment currently in use by the agency and its employees are necessary for state employees to perform assigned duties and to the mission of the agency.

I am well aware that the Supreme Court is the sole authority for the administration of the judiciary, but in my travels around the state, I often hear from other judges, local officials, legislators, and constituents about ways to improve our court system. As an example, I have been told that assigning a judge to each case and decreasing circuit rotations would bring greater efficiency and transparency to the judicial system. As a personal example, I know that I would welcome your assistance in gathering more information about the performance of magistrates so that I can make more informed decisions about their appointments and re-appointments.

I look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss these initiatives. I know that, together, we can show the people of South Carolina that we are addressing governmental inefficiency in a way that improves services for all citizens. God bless.

My very best,


Nikki R. Haley