

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
WESTERN DISTRICT**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,	:	No. 72-74 WM 2026
	:	
Respondent	:	
	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
	:	
DERRICK DEWIGHT DAWSON,	:	
	:	
Petitioner	:	

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 2nd day of October, 2026, the “Application for Leave to File Petition for Allowance of Appeal Nunc Pro Tunc” is GRANTED.

Appointed counsel, Julia E. Burke, Esq., was obligated to represent Petitioner in these proceedings until she was permitted to withdraw by leave of court. See Pa.R.Crim.P. 120(B), Comment (providing that counsel must seek leave of court to withdraw); see *also* Pa.R.Crim.P. 904(F)(2), Comment (specifying that when counsel is appointed in a PCRA matter, the appointment continues through all avenues of appeal, including allocatur review). Attorney Burke sought permission to withdraw, which the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County expressly denied via an April 7, 2026 order. Notwithstanding the fact that her duty of representation thus continued, Attorney Burke failed to file a Petition for Allowance of Appeal on behalf of Petitioner, abandoning her client.

In light of Attorney Burke's abandonment, this matter is REMANDED to the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County. On remand, the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County is DIRECTED to determine whether to appoint new counsel for Petitioner or allow Petitioner to proceed *pro se*.

The Court of Common Pleas of Blair County is further DIRECTED to enter its order regarding this remand within 90 days and to promptly notify this Court of its determination.