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September 18, 2017

Mr. Jorge Navarrete
California Supreme Court
Office of the Clerk
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

SUPREME COURT COPY

Re: *People v. Rices*, S175851

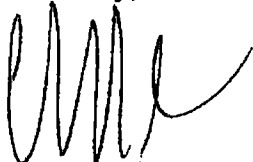
Dear Mr. Navarrete:

I represent appellant Jean Pierre Rices in the above captioned case. The case has been calendered for argument on October 2, 2017.

At oral argument I plan to focus on (1) the trial court's decision to respond to a question from the jury in the absence of and without consulting counsel (presented as Argument XII in Appellant's Opening Brief and Argument XI in Appellant's Reply Brief), (2) the trial court's refusal to discharge jurors for cause who said they believed blacks and Hispanics were "more likely to be violent" than whites (presented as Argument I in both Appellant's Opening Brief and Appellant's Reply Brief) and (3) the trial court's refusal to provide the defense with a copy of co-defendant Miller's "free talk" interview after it became clear Miller would be a witness at trial (presented as Argument XI in Appellant's Opening Brief and Argument IX in Appellant's Reply Brief).

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Cliff Gardner

DEATH PENALTY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action. My business address is 1448 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, California 94702.

On September 18, 2017, I served the within

ORAL ARGUMENT FOCUS LETTER, *PEOPLE V. RICES*, S175851

upon the parties named below by depositing a true copy in a United States mailbox in Berkeley, California, in a sealed envelope, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows:

Jean Pierre Rices
P-98772
San Quentin State Prison
San Quentin, California 94974

Alana Cohen Butler, Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 85266
San Diego, California 92186-5266

California Appellate Project
101 2nd Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Hon. Lantz Lewis
San Diego Superior Court
250 E. Main Street
El Cajon, California 92020

Office of the District Attorney
250 E. Main Street
El Cajon, California 92020

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true. Executed on September 18, 2017, in Berkeley, California.


Declarant