

News Release

For Immediate Release
May 11, 2016

The civil rights aspect of the killing of Walter Scott has always been important to the Scott family, our community and our nation. For these reasons, I have worked with the Scotts, their attorneys and the Department of Justice in exploring the federal options for this case.

Over the past year and on numerous occasions, I have met with the local United States Attorney's Office and the civil rights division of the Department of Justice regarding the killing of Mr. Scott. In my view, a parallel federal prosecution in this case makes sense and I am pleased that the Department agrees. Simply put, the state and federal prosecutions vindicate separate interests and we both will work hard to find justice for Mr. Scott and Mr. Slager. While certainly the State charges address the killing of Mr. Scott, they do not directly address the alleged violation of Mr. Scott's civil rights by a government employee acting under color of law. It is essential that law enforcement and our community see the federal government address such an important aspect of this case.

Scheduling of the trials for these cases is in the discretion of the South Carolina Circuit Court for the state charges and the United States District Court for the federal charges. The state charges are currently scheduled for trial on October 31, 2016.

As a lawyer and prosecutor, I am subject to special rules limiting my ability to make further public comments about these pending matters. By law, Defendant Slager is presumed innocent unless and until he is proven guilty.