

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE  
AT GREENEVILLE**

|                                 |   |                       |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b> | ) |                       |
|                                 | ) |                       |
| <b>v.</b>                       | ) | <b>No. 2:18-CR-25</b> |
|                                 | ) | <b>JUDGE REEVES</b>   |
| <b>LESLIE DANIELLE BETHEA</b>   | ) |                       |

**MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL  
AND TO APPOINT SUBSTITUTE COUNSEL**

Comes now Nikki C. Pierce, and hereby moves the Court to allow her to withdraw as counsel and to appoint substitute counsel given a conflict of interest that has arisen. The reasons for the conflict of interest that requires counsel to seek withdrawal are detailed in an Affidavit in Support of Motion to Withdraw as Counsel. Counsel for Ms. Bethea asks that substitute counsel be appointed. In short, a conflict of interest has arisen which is more fully detailed in the Affidavit in Support of Motion to Withdraw as Counsel. Ms. Bethea has requested that the sentencing hearing remain for August 6, 2019, until such time as substitute counsel is appointed and can make a decision to proceed or not on that date.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is requested that this Honorable Court enter an Order allowing counsel to withdraw given the conflict of interest that has arisen and appoint substitute CJA counsel to represent Ms. Bethea.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| BY: | FEDERAL DEFENDER SERVICES OF<br>EASTERN TENNESSEE, INC.<br><u>s/ Nikki C. Pierce</u><br>Nikki C. Pierce<br>BPR No. 018181<br>Federal Defender Services<br>219 West Depot Street, Suite 2<br>Greeneville, TN 37743<br>(423) 636-1301 |
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on July 19, 2019, a copy of the foregoing Motion to Withdraw was filed electronically. Notice of this filing will be sent by operation of the Court's electronic filing system to all parties indicated on the electronic filing receipt. All other parties will be served by regular U.S. mail. Parties may access this filing through the Court's electronic filing system.

*s/ Nikki C. Pierce*