

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



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October 22, 2024

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House Appropriations Committee
H-351 Capitol Building
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angelawitwer@gouse.mi.gov

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House Fiscal Agency
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Senator Sarah Anthony
Senate Appropriations Committee
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Jen Flood
State Budget Director
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Senator John Cherry
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
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Sent by email only

Dear Representatives, Senators, and Directors;

Pursuant to 2019 PA 10, the Department is directed to provide a quarterly report on the wrongful imprisonment compensation fund. The specific report language and the department's responses for the Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024) are as follows:

Dear Representatives, Senators, and Directors;

Page 2

October 22, 2024

(a) All payments made from the wrongful imprisonment fund in each prior quarter of the fiscal year, and the total of those payments, including if each payment is part of a new settlement or part of an installment plan.

1. *Michael Griffin v State of Michigan*, Court of Claims No. 23-000152-MZ. On July 18, 2024, a Release and Settlement Agreement was signed, awarding Griffin with \$500,000 in WICA relief. The agreement also awarded attorney Fees and costs was entered providing for the payment of attorney fees in the amount of \$18,000 and \$980.25 respectively.

TOTAL PAYMENTS OUT OF THE FUND: \$518,980.25

(b) Total payments made from each prior fiscal year and the total of all payments to date (per Treasury):

FY17:	\$2,101,235.47
FY18:	\$2,177,139.49
FY19 Total	\$5,913,335.04
FY20 Total	\$13,096,204.52
FY21 Total	\$10,297,740.23
FY22 Total	\$9,804,160.04
FY23 Total	\$5,190,308.39
FY24 Total	\$6,920,643.02

CUMULATIVE TO DATE: \$55,500,766.20

(c) Any settlements that have been decided but have yet to receive a payment.

None.

(d) The number of known cases seeking a settlement, but do not have a final judgment, and the dollar amount of each potential payment for these known cases, and the total of these payments.

See Appendix A.

(e) The balance in the wrongful imprisonment fund at the end of the previous quarter.

Dear Representatives, Senators, and Directors;

Page 3

October 22, 2024

Pursuant to the Department of Treasury's records, as of September 30, 2024, there was \$15,023,883.85, in the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Fund. Interest will likely be posted this week, raising the fund by approximately \$200,000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Steffen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Steffen
Director, Office of Legislative Affairs
Department of Attorney General

AS/sg
Attachments

APPENDIX A

Number of known cases seeking a settlement, but do not have a final judgment, and the dollar amount of each potential payment for these known cases, and the total of these payments, at the end of the 3rd Quarter of the fiscal year 2024 (April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024)

PLAINTIFF	COMPENSATION SOUGHT
Christian, Kino	\$674,520.55 in compensation, plus costs and attorney fees.
Clark, Alphonso	\$892,465.75 in compensation, plus costs and attorney fees.
Clark, Paul	\$1,845,833.33 in compensation, plus costs and attorney fees.
McBride, Dorreon	\$384,661.00 in compensation plus costs and attorney fees.
Searcy, Thelonious*	\$892,763.83 in compensation, plus costs and attorney fees.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF POTENTIAL CLAIMS: \$4,690,244.46 (plus attorney fees and costs in each case up to \$50,000.00 or 10% of the compensation awarded whichever is less)

*Plaintiff did not specify the amount of compensation sought in his complaint. Consequently, the State has calculated the potential compensation.