

STATE OF MICHIGAN
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Sent by email only

Re: *Erone Shelman v State of Michigan*
Court of Claims, Docket No. 25-000004-MZ

Dear Representatives, Senators, and Directors;

MCL 18.1396 directs that the Attorney General notify you in the event of a settlement or consent judgment in excess of \$200,000. Accordingly, I am notifying you that on October 24, 2025, the parties entered into a Release and Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$1,004,228.03 to Plaintiff Erone Shelman for the thirty years that he was wrongfully imprisoned in the state prison system.

Mr. Shelman was convicted of first-degree murder, under an aider and abettor theory, in 1992 for the killing of Antonio Knight. Shelman was driving the vehicle Knight was shot in. The actual shooter, Andre Rice, was convicted of first-degree murder and felony-firearm and was released from prison after 23 years of

incarceration. The primary evidence implicating Shelman came from the testimony of his cousin who was not present for the shooting. Shelman's cousin testified that he saw Shelman three times the day of the shooting and claimed that Shelman alluded that he was going to kill Knight. During court proceedings in Rice's criminal case, the officer in charge read a statement from Rice in which he said that Shelman had no knowledge that Rice was going to shoot Knight in the vehicle that night. Rice also recently testified in an evidentiary hearing that he shot Knight and Shelman had no prior knowledge that it was going to happen.

Shelman obtained affidavits from three new witnesses who knew Shelman, Knight, Rice, and Shelman's cousin at the time of the crime. Two of those individuals testified to conversations they had with Shelman's cousin that impeached his testimony at trial and refuted his claims that Shelman was involved in the actual shooting. The other individual testified to the animosity between Rice and Knight and reiterated that Shelman was not aware Rice was going to shoot Knight. Based on this new evidence, the Michigan Court of Appeals granted Shelman a new trial, and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office dismissed the charges.

The primary purpose of the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Act (WICA), MCL 691.1751 *et seq*, is to provide compensation and other relief to individuals wrongfully imprisoned for crimes they did not commit. The WICA provides that a plaintiff who was wrongfully imprisoned is entitled to \$50,000.00 for each year he was wrongfully incarcerated and a prorated amount for any additional time less than a year. MCL 691.1755(2)(a). Mr. Shelman established that he was entitled to compensation under the WICA because he demonstrated, by clear and convincing evidence, that: (1) he was convicted of one or more crimes under the law of this state, was sentenced to a term of imprisonment in a state correctional facility, and served time on his sentence; (2) his convictions were reversed and his charges dismissed based upon new evidence; and (3) new evidence demonstrated that he did not perpetrate the crime and was not an accomplice or accessory to the acts that were the basis of his conviction. MCL 691.1755(1).

Sincerely,



Ashley Steffen
Director of Legislative Affairs
Department of Attorney General