

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



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October 16, 2025

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*This Letter Sent VIA Email Only*

Re: *Sean MacMaster v. David Busacca, et al*  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Case 21-cv-11052

Dear Senators, Representatives, and Directors:

MCL 18.1396 directs that the Attorney General notify you in the event of a settlement or consent judgment that results in a state obligation that exceeds \$200,000. Accordingly, I am notifying you that the Michigan State Police (MSP) agreed to settle the claims in this case against MSP member David Busacca for

\$9,290,000. It should be noted that the Department of Attorney General only became involved in the case after the verdict was rendered and only in the capacity of representing the MSP in settlement negotiations. Busacca was represented at trial by separate counsel.

This case arises from a civil lawsuit brought by Shawn MacMaster against David Busacca, a current MSP member, Brian Kolodziej, a former Assistant Attorney General, Michael Gerald, a Centerline police officer, Lauren Schipani, a former Special Investigator for the Department of Attorney General, Laura Moody, the former Chief Deputy of the Department of Attorney General, and Johanna MacMaster, the ex-wife of Plaintiff.

In an ongoing custody dispute, allegations were made that Plaintiff sexually assaulted his daughter. It was alleged that Kolodziej and Busacca improperly investigated Plaintiff and brought charges against him for his purported crimes. Plaintiff was jailed for five months before he was released on bond, and several months later the charges against him were dropped.

The matter proceeded to trial, and the jury returned a verdict in favor of the Plaintiff for \$58,443,115, not including judgment interest or attorney fees which likely would have added another \$1,000,000. Because the verdict was joint and several liability, Busacca's potential liability was more than \$43,000,000.

Negotiations resulted in the \$9,290,000 settlement for the claims against Busacca only. Had this matter proceeded through post-verdict proceedings in the trial court and then on appeal, total exposure significantly more than the settlement amount was possible.

Sincerely,



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

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