

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



DANA NESSEL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. Box 30212
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

May 11, 2026

Senator Sarah Anthony, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-324 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48933
SenSAnthony@senate.michigan.gov

Representative Ann Bollin, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
898 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933
AnnBollin@house.mi.gov

Kathryn Summers, Director
Senate Fiscal Agency
Victor Office Center
201 N Washington Square # 800
Lansing, MI 48933
ksummers@senate.michigan.gov

Mary Ann Cleary, Director
House Fiscal Agency
House Office Building
124 N Capitol Avenue #4
Lansing, MI 48933
mcleary@house.mi.gov

Jen Flood
State Budget Director
George W. Romney Building
111 S Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933
floodj3@michigan.gov

Sent by email only

Re: *Kainte Hickey v State of Michigan*
Court of Claims, Docket No. 25-000069-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 April 27, 2026, the parties entered into a release and settlement agreement awarding \$625,000.00 to Plaintiff Kainte Hickey for the sixteen years that he was wrongfully imprisoned in the state prison system.

Mr. Hickey was convicted of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder, assault with intent to commit murder, felon in possession of a firearm, and felony-firearm in 2008. The primary evidence implicating Hickey came from the

victim's identification of Hickey to police officers contemporaneously to when he was shot. Prior to his trial, Hickey advised his attorney of several alibi witnesses, but they were not called to testify.

During a lengthy appellate process, Hickey's co-defendant testified that he was the one who shot the victim and that Hickey was not present during the shooting at all. Several witnesses, including a Detroit Police Officer, testified to Hickey's alibi. The Wayne County Circuit Court vacated Hickey's convictions and ordered a new trial. Hickey was acquitted of all charges at his second trial when this new evidence was presented.

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. Hickey 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,

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

Ashley Steffen
Director of Legislative Affairs
Department of Attorney General

AC:AS/slg