

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



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May 22, 2026

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Sent by email only

Re: *Roderic Pippen v State of Michigan*
Court of Claims, Docket No. 25-000049-MP

Dear Senators, Representatives, 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 May 13, 2026, the parties entered into a release and settlement agreement awarding \$275,000.00 to Plaintiff Roderic Pippen for the ten years that he was wrongfully imprisoned in the state prison system.

During a lengthy appellate process, the credibility of the eyewitness was called into question. The Michigan Supreme Court granted Pippen a new trial, opining that testimony attacking the eyewitness's credibility could have swayed the

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jury into believing that Pippen did not shoot the victim, since the eyewitness's testimony was the only direct evidence tying Pippen to the crime. The Court noted that Pippen's possession of the firearm months after the shooting, coupled with the eyewitness's testimony about the firearm, could not definitively place Pippen at the scene. Subsequently, the Wayne County Circuit Court vacated Pippen's convictions and ordered a new trial. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office declined to proceed with a new trial and dismissed the charges on February 26, 2024.

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. Pippen 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/slq