

ORIGINAL

IN THE COURT OF CLAIMS OF OHIO

FILED
COURT OF CLAIMS
OF OHIO

2015 FEB 27 AM 10:48

**KWAME AJAMU (fka Ronnie Bridgeman)
and
WILEY BRIDGEMAN,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

STATE OF OHIO

Defendant.

Judge

2015-00149 WI

Case No.

**MOTION UNDER R.C. § 2743.48(B)(4) FOR PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT OF
50% OF THE SUM DESCRIBED IN R.C. § 2743.48(E)(2)(b)**

Plaintiffs Kwame Ajamu (formerly known as Ronnié Bridgeman) and Wiley Bridgeman move this Court under R.C. § 2743.48(B)(4) to order the Clerk of Courts to forward preliminary judgment to the president of the controlling board requesting payment to each of them of fifty percent (50%) of the amount described in R.C. § 2743.48(E)(2)(b).

Section (E)(2)(b) provides that wrongfully imprisoned individuals are entitled to payment of a sum of money for each year of their wrongful imprisonment. That amount is \$51,901.58 per year, as reflected by the current report of the auditor of state on file with this Court. Section (B)(4) provides that, within 60 days after the court of common pleas has entered determination that the individual qualifies as wrongfully imprisoned, "the clerk of the court of claims shall forward a preliminary judgment to the president of the controlling board requesting the payment of fifty per cent of the amount described in division (E)(2)(b) of this section to the wrongfully imprisoned individual." R.C. § 2743.48(B)(4).

ON COMPUTER

The Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas entered a judgment on February 11, 2015, determining that Kwame Ajamu (formerly Ronnie Bridgeman) and Wiley Bridgeman qualified as wrongfully imprisoned individuals. That entry was filed with this Court on February 24, 2015, when Plaintiffs filed their Complaint initiating this lawsuit against the State of Ohio.

Kwame Ajamu was wrongfully imprisoned for more than 27 years. To simplify the 50% calculation for the precise amount of time he was wrongfully imprisoned, Ajamu requests payment at this time based on 27 years of imprisonment. Based on 27 years of wrongful imprisonment, the 50% payment amount is **\$700,671.33** (this is 50% of \$1,401,342.66). This does not account for additional time in prison beyond 27 years, which must be prorated according to R.C. § 2743.48(E)(2)(b). Ajamu's request for \$700,671.33 comes with the understanding that prorated payment for his additional time of wrongful imprisonment will be added to his total judgment for damages upon the conclusion of this case.

Wiley Bridgeman was wrongfully imprisoned for more than 37 years. To simplify the 50% calculation for the exact amount of time he was wrongfully imprisoned, Bridgeman requests payment at this time based on 37 years of imprisonment. Based on 37 years of wrongful imprisonment, the 50% payment amount is **\$960,179.23** (this is 50% of \$1,920,358.46). This does not account for additional time in prison beyond 37 years, which must be prorated according to R.C. § 2743.48(E)(2)(b). Bridgeman's request for \$960,179.23 comes with the understanding that prorated payment for his additional time of wrongful imprisonment will be added to his total judgment for damages upon the conclusion of this case.

Accordingly, Kwame Ajamu respectfully moves this Court to order the Clerk's Office to forward the preliminary judgment for the sum of \$700,671.33 to the controlling board

immediately so that Ajamu's matter can be added to the agenda at the next meeting of the controlling board. And Wiley Bridgeman respectfully moves this Court to order the Clerk's Office to forward the preliminary judgment for the sum of \$960,179.23 to the controlling board immediately so that his matter can be added to the agenda at the next meeting of the controlling board.

Undersigned counsel has also sent a letter to the Clerk's Office requesting the office to proceed with its statutorily mandated duty. A copy of that letter, dated February 24, 2015, is attached to this motion, along with a proposed Entry for disbursement of the funds.

Dated: February 24, 2015

Respectfully submitted,



Terry H. Gilbert (OH 0021948)
Jacqueline Greene (OH 0092733)
FRIEDMAN & GILBERT
55 Public Sq., Suite 1055
Cleveland, OH 44113
Phone: (216) 241-1430
Fax: (216) 621-0427
E-mail: tgilbert@f-glaw.com
jgreene@f-glaw.com

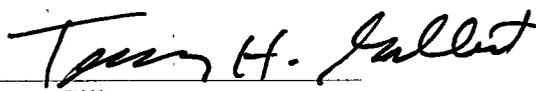
David E. Mills (OH 0075400)
THE MILLS LAW OFFICE LLC
1300 West Ninth Street, Suite 636
Cleveland, OH 44113
Phone: (216) 929-4747
Fax: (202) 379-1767
E-mail: dm@MillsFederalAppeals.com

Counsel for Plaintiffs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 24, 2015, a copy of the foregoing was sent by U.S. Mail
to the following:

Michael DeWine
Ohio Attorney General
30 E. Broad St. 16th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215


Terry Gilbert
Attorney for Plaintiffs

FRIEDMAN & GILBERT

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GORDON S. FRIEDMAN
TERRY H. GILBERT
JACQUELINE GREENE

February 24, 2015

Clerk of Courts, Court of Claims of Ohio
The Ohio Judicial Center
65 South Front Street
Third Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: *Kwame Ajamu & Wiley Bridgeman v. State of Ohio*

Dear Clerk of Courts:

Under Ohio Revised Code § 2743.48(B)(4), we are requesting the Clerk's Office to forward a preliminary judgment to the president of the controlling board requesting the payment to Kwame Ajamu (formerly Ronnie Bridgeman) and Wiley Bridgman of fifty percent (50%) of the amount described in R.C. § 2743.48(E)(2)(b).

Section (E)(2)(b) provides that wrongfully imprisoned individuals are entitled to payment of a sum of money for each year of their wrongful imprisonment. That amount is \$51,901.58 per year, as reflected by the current report of the auditor of state on file with this Court. Section (B)(4) provides that, within 60 days after the court of common pleas has entered determination that the individual qualifies as wrongfully imprisoned, "the clerk of the court of claims shall forward a preliminary judgment to the president of the controlling board requesting the payment of fifty per cent of the amount described in division (E)(2)(b) of this section to the wrongfully imprisoned individual." R.C. § 2743.48(B)(4). "The board shall take all actions necessary to cause the payment of that amount out of the emergency purpose special account of the board." *Id.*

Kwame Ajamu was wrongfully imprisoned for more than 27 years. To simplify the 50% calculation for the precise amount of time he was wrongfully imprisoned, Ajamu requests payment at this time based on 27 years of imprisonment. Based on 27 years of wrongful imprisonment, the 50% payment amount is **\$700,671.33** (this is 50% of \$1,401,342.66). This does not account for additional time in prison beyond 27 years, which must be prorated according to R.C. § 2743.48(E)(2)(b). Ajamu's request for \$700,671.33 comes with the understanding that prorated payment for his additional time of wrongful imprisonment will be added to his total judgment for damages upon the conclusion of this case.

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To ensure timely payment within the 60-day timeframe, we are requesting the Clerk's office to forward the preliminary judgment for the sums of \$700,671.33 and \$960,179.23 to the controlling board immediately so that Ajamu and Bridgeman's matter can be added to the agenda at the next meeting of the controlling board.

Contemporaneously with the filing of Ajamu and Bridgeman's Complaint against the State of Ohio and the service of this letter to the Clerk of Courts for the Court of Claims, Ajamu and Bridgeman have also filed a motion with the Court of Claims to the effect of this letter, with this letter attached as an Exhibit.

If you require any additional information, do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Terry H. Gilbert
Jacqueline Greene
FRIEDMAN & GILBERT
55 Public Sq., Suite 1055
Cleveland, OH 44113
Phone: (216) 241-1430
Fax: (216) 621-0427
E-mail: tgilbert@f-glaw.com
jgreene@f-glaw.com

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Phone: (216) 929-4747
Fax: (202) 379-1767
E-mail: dm@MillsFederalAppeals.com

Attorneys for Kwame Ajamu and Wiley Bridgeman

FRIEDMAN & GILBERT

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GORDON S. FRIEDMAN
TERRY H. GILBERT
JACQUELINE GREENE

February 24, 2015

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Section (E)(2)(b) provides that wrongfully imprisoned individuals are entitled to payment of a sum of money for each year of their wrongful imprisonment. That amount is \$51,901.58 per year, as reflected by the current report of the auditor of state on file with this Court. Section (B)(4) provides that, within 60 days after the court of common pleas has entered determination that the individual qualifies as wrongfully imprisoned, "the clerk of the court of claims shall forward a preliminary judgment to the president of the controlling board requesting the payment of fifty per cent of the amount described in division (E)(2)(b) of this section to the wrongfully imprisoned individual." R.C. § 2743.48(B)(4). "The board shall take all actions necessary to cause the payment of that amount out of the emergency purpose special account of the board." *Id.*

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Contemporaneously with the filing of Ajamu and Bridgeman's Complaint against the State of Ohio and the service of this letter to the Clerk of Courts for the Court of Claims, Ajamu and Bridgeman have also filed a motion with the Court of Claims to the effect of this letter, with this letter attached as an Exhibit.

If you require any additional information, do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Terry H. Gilbert
Jacqueline Greene
FRIEDMAN & GILBERT
55 Public Sq., Suite 1055
Cleveland, OH 44113
Phone: (216) 241-1430
Fax: (216) 621-0427
E-mail: tgilbert@f-glaw.com
jgreene@f-glaw.com

David E. Mills
THE MILLS LAW OFFICE LLC
1300 West Ninth Street, Suite 636
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Phone: (216) 929-4747
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Attorneys for Kwame Ajamu and Wiley Bridgeman

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and
WILEY BRIDGEMAN,**

Plaintiffs,

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STATE OF OHIO,

Defendant.

Judge

2015-00149 WI

Case No.

**JOURNAL ENTRY APPROVING DISBURSEMENT OF
50% OF THE SUM DESCRIBED IN R.C. § 2743.48(E)(2)(b)**

The Court, being fully advised as to the premises, approves and confirms the preliminary judgment and disbursement of 50% of the sum described in R.C. § 2743.48(E)(2)(b) for 27 years of Kwame Ajamu's wrongful imprisonment, but not inclusive of prorated payments for additional time beyond the 27 years.

The partial settlement warrant shall be drawn on the account of the State of Ohio for the sum of Seven Hundred Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-One and 33/100 Dollars (\$700,671.33) payable to "Terry H. Gilbert, Attorney at Law," and this amount will be deposited into Terry H. Gilbert's IOLTA account for payment to Kwame Ajamu (formerly Ronnie Bridgeman).

The Court, being fully advised as to the premises, also approves and confirms the preliminary judgment and disbursement of 50% of the sum described in R.C. § 2743.48(E)(2)(b) for 37 years of Wiley Bridgeman's wrongful imprisonment, but not inclusive of prorated payments for additional time beyond the 37 years.

The partial settlement warrant shall be drawn on the account of the State of Ohio for the sum of Nine Hundred Sixty-Thousand, One Hundred Seventy-Nine and 23/100 Dollars (\$960,179.23) payable to "Terry H. Gilbert, Attorney at Law," and this amount will be deposited into Terry H. Gilbert's IOLTA account for payment to Wiley Bridgeman.

These warrants shall be sent in care of

Terry H. Gilbert
FRIEDMAN & GILBERT
55 Public Sq., Suite 1055
Cleveland, OH 44113

IT IS SO ORDERED
