



Court of Claims of Ohio

The Ohio Judicial Center
65 South Front Street, Third Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614.387.9800 or 1.800.824.8263
www.cco.state.oh.us

KWAME AJAMU, et al.

Plaintiffs

v.

STATE OF OHIO

Defendant

Case No. 2015-00149-WI

Judge Patrick M. McGrath

ENTRY

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COURT OF OHIO
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On February 12, 2015, the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas issued judgment entries stating that plaintiffs, Wiley Bridgeman and Kwame Ajamu (formerly known as Ronnie Bridgeman) have established that they were wrongfully imprisoned individuals in accordance with R.C. 2743.48. No appeal has been taken from those entries.

On February 27, 2015, plaintiffs filed their complaint for wrongful imprisonment, along with certified copies of the documentation set forth in R.C. 2743.48(E)(1). Plaintiffs also filed a motion for a preliminary judgment pursuant to R.C. 2743.48(B)(4).

R.C. 2743.48(B)(4) states: "Within sixty days after the date of the entry of the determination by the court of common pleas in the county where the underlying criminal action was initiated that a person is a wrongfully imprisoned individual, 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.¹ The board shall take all actions

¹R.C. 2743.48(E)(2)(b) states: "In a civil action as described in division (D) of this section, upon presentation of requisite proof to the court of claims, a wrongfully imprisoned individual is entitled to receive a sum of money that equals the total of each of the following amounts: * * * For each full year of imprisonment in the state correctional institution for the offense of which the wrongfully imprisoned individual was found guilty, forty thousand three hundred thirty dollars or the adjusted amount determined by the auditor of state pursuant to section 2743.49 of the Revised Code, and for each part of a year of being so imprisoned, a pro-rated share of forty thousand three hundred thirty dollars or the adjusted amount determined by the auditor of state pursuant to section 2743.49 of the Revised Code."

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necessary to cause the payment of that amount out of the emergency purposes special purpose account of the board." The adjusted annual amount determined by the auditor of state pursuant to R.C. 2743.49 currently in effect is \$51,901.58.

On March 6, 2015, the court ordered the parties to inform the court of the number of days that plaintiffs were incarcerated in a state correctional institution for the offense of which they were found to be wrongfully imprisoned individuals. On April 8, 2015, the court conducted a status conference with the parties, during which the court and counsel discussed the calculation of the number of days that each plaintiff was wrongfully incarcerated in a state correctional institution. On April 9, 2015, counsel for defendant filed a "notice of time served in state correctional institution" for each plaintiff, which set forth the dates that were agreed to during the conference. The notices state that plaintiff Wiley Bridgeman was wrongfully incarcerated in a state correctional institution for a total of 13,630 days, and that plaintiff Kwame Ajamu (fka Ronnie Bridgeman) was wrongfully incarcerated in a state correctional institution for a total of 9,108 days.

Based upon the foregoing, plaintiffs' February 27, 2015, motion is GRANTED. Pursuant to R.C. 2743.48(B)(4), a preliminary judgment consisting of fifty per cent of the amount described in division R.C. 2743.48(E)(2)(b) is rendered in favor of plaintiffs in the following amounts: \$969,093.00 to Wiley Bridgeman; and, \$647,578.80 to Kwame Ajamu (fka Ronnie Bridgeman.)

At plaintiffs' request, the warrant of payment of the preliminary judgment for Wiley Bridgeman shall be payable to "Terry H. Gilbert, Attorney at Law, IOLTA for payment to Wiley Bridgeman, for damages for physical injury caused by wrongful imprisonment." At plaintiffs' request, the warrant of payment of the preliminary judgment for plaintiff Kwame Ajamu shall be payable to "Terry H. Gilbert, Attorney at Law, IOLTA for payment to Kwame Ajamu (formerly Ronnie Bridgeman), for damages for physical injury caused by wrongful imprisonment." Both warrants shall be sent in care of Terry H. Gilbert, Friedman & Gilbert, 55 Public Square, Suite 1055, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

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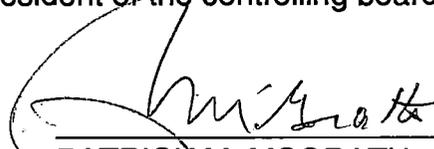
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Subject to the provisions of R.C. 2743.19(D), the clerk shall forward a certified copy of this preliminary judgment to the president of the controlling board.



PATRICK M. MCGRATH
Judge

cc:

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