

IN A MINUTE

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DETROIT

State's request for new trial is rejected

A federal judge in Detroit **rejected** the **state's request for a new trial** in the case of a Detroit prison inmate who won a \$219,000 verdict against the Michigan Department of Corrections.

The judge also ordered the state to pay the inmate's \$90,875 legal bill.

The case involves Darrell Siggers-El, 41, who **is** serving a life sentence **for** murder.

He claimed in a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Detroit that David Barlow, a resident unit manager at Mound Correctional Facility in Detroit, had him transferred to another prison in 2001 in retaliation **for** Siggers-El going to Barlow's superiors when Barlow failed to promptly process paperwork to pay **for** a lawyer out of Siggers-El's inmate account.

Prisoners aren't allowed to have money. Barlow denied the charge.

The transfer prevented Siggers-El from continuing to have visits with his daughter, court papers said.

After the verdict, the Michigan Attorney General's Office asked U.S. District Judge Arthur Tarnow to throw out or reduce the verdict award, saying it was unwarranted and excessive.

On Monday, Tarnow declined and ordered the state to pay Siggers-El's attorney fees.

It was unclear Wednesday whether the Attorney General's Office would appeal the verdict.

-- By David Ashenfelter

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