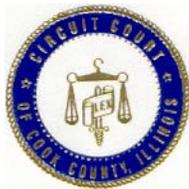


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CLERK DOROTHY BROWN ASSISTS WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED MAN WITH FILING PETITION FOR CERTIFICATE OF INNOCENCE

IF GRANTED, DAVID BATES COULD RECEIVE COMPENSATION FROM THE STATE

CHICAGO - The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, recently assisted Mr. David Bates, accompanied by his attorney, Mr. Aaron McLeod, in filing a petition for a Certificate of Innocence with the Clerk's Office. Bates had been wrongly convicted in 1993 on murder, attempted murder and armed robbery.

At the filing, Clerk Brown, Bates and McLeod were joined by Mr. Jonathan Jackson of Rainbow PUSH, Mr. Antwon McCullough, and Mr. Johnny Lee Savory, who had also been wrongfully imprisoned in Peoria, Illinois, and later released. Savory has since worked with PUSH to help individuals who have been released after wrongful imprisonment.

"I believe in the importance of the Certificate of Innocence for individuals like Mr. Bates," said Clerk Brown. "Without this assistance offered through the courts, the only option for wrongfully convicted and imprisoned individuals is to seek a pardon from the Governor. Now, this new process provides a chance for more rapid relief for such individuals, enabling them to get back on their feet faster."

David Bates' petition states that after Chicago Police detectives tortured him into confessing, he was wrongly convicted and sentenced in 1993 to serve 20 years on murder, attempted murder and armed robbery charges. Mr. Bates' conviction was reversed by the Illinois Appellate Court in May 1994 and sent back to trial. Mr. Bates was acquitted of all charges at his new trial in December 1995. The court ruled that the false statement made by Mr. Bates after he was tortured should never have been presented at trial.

Under an Illinois law passed on Sept. 22, 2008, individuals may file petitions for a Certificate of Innocence, if they had been wrongly convicted, had their convictions overturned and subsequently acquitted prior Sept. 22, 2008. To qualify, these individuals must also file their petitions within two years of Sept. 22, 2008.

Once a petition for a Certificate of Innocence is presented to the Court, the judge decides whether to grant the order. The judge also decides the amount of compensation using the

following guidelines: If an individual was imprisoned for five years or less, not more than \$85,350 in compensation; for imprisonment of 14 years or less but over five years, not more than \$170,000; for imprisonment of more than 14 years, not more than \$199,150. Once the judge grants the certificate, an order is entered for the Clerk of the Circuit Court to send the Certificate to the Illinois Court of Claims.

Upon receipt of the judge's order, the Court of Claims gives a decision on the final amount of financial assistance to be dispensed within 90 days of receiving the case on its docket.

"Through this new law, people will be able to receive justice more swiftly along with the financial assistance they need to help start their lives anew," said Clerk Brown.

David Bates' case received a continuance until March 26, 2009, and he will appear before Circuit Court Judge Bieble.

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CAPTION

Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, recently assisted Mr. Davis Bates (third from right) with filing a petition for a Certificate of Innocence. Joining Clerk Brown and Bates are: (left to right) Bates' attorney, Mr. Aaron McLeod, Mr. Johnnie Savory, Mr. Antwon McCullough, and Mr. Jonathan Jackson of Rainbow PUSH.