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News Release

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Ficano Gets Key Victory In Battle Vs Third Circuit Court

Lansing, MI - The Michigan Supreme Court ruled yesterday that Wayne County does not have to comply with a trial court order granting the Third Circuit Court additional funding until it has an opportunity to be heard on appeal. The high court granted the county's request for a stay pending appeal.

The trial court had ruled in favor of the Third Circuit, granting its request for millions of dollars in additional funding, and a new courthouse, a ruling that could cost Wayne County taxpayers up to 500 million dollars.

But Wayne County appealed immediately, arguing, among other things, that the courts claims of inadequate funding for past years are moot, that the lower court abused its authority by awarding appropriations that are not reasonable or necessary for the court to perform its constitutional responsibilities, and that the relief sought was not provided for under the Supreme Court's decision in *46th Circuit Court v. County of Crawford*.

The Supreme Court agreed with the county that it should not be required to spend taxpayer money on the court without having an opportunity to be heard on appeal.

Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano applauded the Supreme Court's decision.

"I am glad the Supreme Court has stepped in to say, 'Let's take a step back,'" he said. "We can't continue to rob Peter to pay Paul. They are both broke."

The practical impact of the ruling is that the county will have a chance to make its argument before it is forced to spend taxpayer money on a ruling it believes rewards a circuit court that continues to overspend.

The appeal is expected to be heard in May.

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