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Contact:

Adam Bitely

202.689.9266

abitely@bellwetherpr.com

SADO Issues Statement on Michigan Supreme Court Review of *People of the State of Michigan v. Donell Willie-Terrell Ivey*

LANSING, Mich. — The State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) today issued the following statement regarding the Michigan Supreme Court’s decision to hear *People of the State of Michigan v. Donell Willie-Terrell Ivey*:

“The State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) appreciates the Michigan Supreme Court’s decision to hear *People of the State of Michigan v. Donell Willie-Terrell Ivey*, which raises significant constitutional and policy questions about whether indigent people can be ordered to pay for the cost of their court-appointed counsel.

“Michigan’s Constitution and long-standing legal precedent make it clear that every person charged with a crime has the right to counsel, regardless of their financial circumstances. This case presents a significant opportunity for the Court to clarify how that right is protected and applied in practice.

“Across Michigan, trial courts regularly face the challenge of balancing fiscal considerations with the fundamental rights of people who cannot afford representation. The outcome of this case may help provide needed clarity and consistency on how attorney fees are imposed in such circumstances.

“SADO is committed to ensuring that indigent defense remains fair, equitable, and accessible to all, and we look forward to the Michigan Supreme Court’s guidance on this critical issue.”

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