

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania



MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

April 2, 2009

Nicholas J. Maiale, Chairman
State Employees' Retirement System
30 North Third Street, Suite 150
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1716

Dear Chairman Maiale:

We would respectfully urge in the strongest possible terms that the State Employees' Retirement System use all of its powers to "freeze" action on the pension payment request made by Judge Mark A. Ciaverella, Jr.

The people of Luzerne County are outraged over the corrupt practices Judge Ciaverella engaged in for many years. The victims number in the thousands, and the damage done to families and to public confidence in government and the justice system is extensive.

Given the high price people are paying for his crimes, they are further incensed over his brazen attempt to protect part of his public pension from forfeiture. The belief is widespread that he is not owed anything, and that his criminal misconduct does not warrant favorable consideration of his request. His attempts to wriggle off the hook of legal and financial responsibility for his misdeeds are disgraceful. It would be an insult to the community if he has the chance to realize pension benefits.

No date has been set for sentencing yet, and there is no indication when it might be. If he is allowed access to pension funds, he could collect a substantial amount of money that would be difficult to recover through restitution actions or civil suits. That would be extremely unfair and unjust to the crime victims, to the taxpayers, and to the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lisa Baker in black ink.

Senator Lisa Baker
20th District

Handwritten signature of Representative John Yudichak in black ink.

Representative John Yudichak
119th District