

NY Settles Lawsuit Against 4 Prison Guards

The New York state government has since declined to represent the former correction officer in the unrelated slaying of Robert Brooks at Marcy Correctional Facility. The guard pleaded guilty to manslaughter on Monday.

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Photo: Sasint/AI/Adobe Stock

What You Need to Know

- New York's Attorney General's Office settled a federal prison guard brutality lawsuit for \$375,000.
- On the same day of the settlement, a defendant in that claim admitted to his role in the beating death of another inmate.
- The state government has since turned to a Big Law firm to review its prison system.

The New York Attorney General's Office reached a \$375,000 settlement on Monday in an incarcerated person's federal lawsuit alleging he was brutally assaulted by correction officers, one of whom was later implicated in the unrelated fatal beating of Robert Brooks.

U.S. District Judge Glenn T. Suddaby of the Northern District of New York signed off on the settlement between state Attorney General Letitia James' office and plaintiff Adam Bauer, who, like Brooks, had been serving prison time at Marcy Correction Facility in Oneida County.

Bauer alleged through his attorneys with Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel that he had been severely injured from the beating by the four officers.

The state settlement occurred the same day that one of the four correction officers—Nicholas Anzalone—pleaded guilty to criminal charges in a case involving the fatal beating of another inmate.

Anzalone was also one of four people who pleaded guilty on Monday in a Utica courtroom to Brooks' fatal beating in December 2024.

Those corrections officers and others had been scheduled to go on trial in two weeks for Brooks' slaying. Anzalone and another guard pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter—upon indictments for second-degree murder, first-degree manslaughter and first-degree offering a false instrument for filing.

A county judge promised Anzalone 22 years in state prison in exchange for his plea.

Bauer's lawyer, ECBAWM partner Katherine Rosenfeld, has [stated](#) that Brooks' death might have been prevented, had state prison officials reined in Anzalone and the other correction officers for the prior allegations lodged by her client.

The attorney didn't return a message seeking comment about the settlement, while a spokesperson for James' office didn't respond to a message.

In wake of Brooks' slaying, the state has called on Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr to conduct a holistic review of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

Bauer's settlement may add additional fodder for its review.

Bauer had been incarcerated for a drug offense and was less than a year from his release from Marcy when he went to the prison bathroom to smoke a cigarette.

His lawsuit said he encountered Correction Officer Antonio Iodice, who demanded to search him for contraband.

Iodice, without warning of justification, allegedly punched Bauer in the head, threw him to the ground, and kicked him repeatedly in the side.

Anzalone and two sergeants entered the bathroom and either joined in kicking Bauer, or failed to stop the assault, the lawsuit alleges.

One of the sergeants hit Bauer over the head with a clipboard so hard that the metal clasp left a V-shaped gash in the inmate's forehead.

After the beating, the correction officers took Bauer to the Marcy infirmary in a van, where they forced him to lie face down on the floor while Anzalone kicked his feet.

The correction officers allegedly reported that Bauer's injuries were self-inflicted, and the lawsuit said they fabricated disciplinary charges to cover up the assault.

When Bauer returned from a local hospital, he was placed in solitary confinement for eight days prior to his disciplinary proceedings, for which a hearing officer found him guilty and imposed 82 days in keeplock and 60 days of loss of privileges. Bauer also lost his opportunity to be considered for early work release, the lawsuit stated.

Bauer's claim said two other incarcerated people witnessed the assault.

Brooks had been serving a 12-year sentence for an assault conviction related to stabbing his girlfriend, and he was scheduled for a parole hearing in 2026.

During Brooks' attack, he was forced onto an infirmary exam table and kicked and punched to death. Footage of the grisly assault had been made available by James, who declined to represent the correction officers and yielded her investigation to a special prosecutor, Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick had presented evidence that Brooks had been beaten on three separate occasions by correction officers before he succumbed to his injuries.

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