

State Supreme Court Denies Tribe's Appeal

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SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The Michigan Supreme Court has refused to overturn a lower-court ruling ordering the Sault Tribe to pay \$2.54 million in damages plus legal fees to the owners of a parking garage near Greektown Casino-Hotel in Detroit.

In 2000, the Tribe, which at the time owned Greektown Casino, signed an agreement with Bates Associates to purchase a parking garage near the casino. In the agreement, the Tribe gave Bates Associates an option to purchase the garage back for \$1 seven years after the agreement was signed, and in the event that Bates did choose to buy it back for \$1, the Tribe agreed to ensure that the building was in good repair.

Bates Associates exercised its right to purchase the garage back. In 2008, due to a dispute over the condition of the garage, Bates Associates sued the Tribe. In September 2010, the courts ruled in favor of Bates Associates and ordered the Tribe to pay a \$2.54 million in damages plus legal fees. The Michigan Supreme Court refused the Tribe's request for appeal in mid-June, and Bates has undertaken collection efforts since that time.