

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2025

Case Detail

Case Information

Court System:	Circuit Court For Anne Arundel County - Criminal
Location:	Anne Arundel Circuit Court
Case Number:	02-K-15-001164
Title:	State of Maryland vs Marcus Damon Snipes Jr.
Case Type:	Criminal Indictment
Filing Date:	05/21/2015
Case Status:	Reopened
Judicial Officer:	Wachs, Jeffrey Michael
Tracking Number(s):	140001344475

Maryland Man Fighting a Decade-Old Wrongful Conviction Is Smeared by Media Before Charges Are Filed, as He Seeks ADA Protections for Hidden Disabilities

Annapolis, MD – Marcus D. Snipes Jr., who has spent nearly a decade fighting to clear his name from a **wrongful attempted sexual offense conviction from 2016**, is condemning a coordinated rush to publicly smear him **before due process**. Snipes was released from prison on **December 4, 2018**, after serving five years, and has continued to pursue post-conviction innocence relief ever since.

Snipes has also taken formal legal action against government actors. In 2024 and 2025, he filed federal lawsuits against **Judge J. Michael Wachs and Detective Bellamy**, alleging constitutional violations tied to the original wrongful case. On **October 14, 2025**, Snipes filed an **amicus brief** in *DeBerry v. State of Maryland*, supporting another innocence claim and exposing misconduct in Anne Arundel County.

Just **seven days later**, on **October 21, 2025**, the Capital Gazette published inflammatory allegations linking Snipes to an alleged arson and insurance fraud scheme — **even though he had not been charged and no warrant existed at the time his name was used**. **Within hours of the headline**, a warrant was issued.

“Within hours of the headline — and days after I filed an amicus brief in another wrongful conviction case — a warrant followed. I don’t know what triggered it, but the timing felt like an attack,” Snipes said. “I’m fighting to clear my name in a decade-old case, and instead of hearing the truth, they tried to bury me under a brand-new allegation before I even had a chance to speak.”

The next day, on **October 22, 2025**, Chief Judge Gregory Wells **deferred ruling** on Snipes' amicus — leaving his misconduct allegations unaddressed while the smear circulated in *DeBerry v. State of Maryland*.

Snipes' concerns are amplified by the fact that he lives with **hidden disabilities: Type 1 Diabetes and ADHD** — conditions that require medical management and cognitive regulation, but are **not visible to the eye**.

"People don't see the alarms, the injections, the medication schedules, or the impact on my focus," Snipes said. "When your disability is hidden, the system judges you instead of accommodating you."

Despite being in state custody for **five years**, Snipes says the system failed to document or accommodate these conditions — a failure that mirrors what Maryland's new **Eric's ID Law**, effective **October 1, 2025**, now attempts to fix. The law allows individuals with non-apparent disabilities to **voluntarily place a hidden-disability designation on their state ID** and requires training for law enforcement on interacting with individuals whose disabilities they cannot see.

Snipes currently has **pending ADA accommodation requests** in his Anne Arundel County Writ of Innocence case and is demanding that those protections be in place **before he surrenders on the new warrant**.

"Despite having spent five years in custody — where my hidden disabilities should have been documented and accommodated — the system repeatedly failed to do so," Snipes said. "I am demanding ADA protections be formally recognized before I surrender myself, so my medical and cognitive disabilities are not ignored or mishandled while I navigate these new charges."

Snipes says he will continue to fight for his innocence, for disability rights, and for accountability.

"I won't let headlines write my story. The facts will. I'm fighting for my life, my name, and my future — and I won't be silenced."

File Date: **10/23/2025**
Document Name: **Petition for Writ of Innocence**

File Date: **10/23/2025**
Document Name: **Supporting Exhibit**

File Date: **10/23/2025**
Document Name: **Reopen**

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Reopened Case: *STATE OF MARYLAND VS. MARCUS D. SNIPES JR. 02-K-15-1164*