

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: February 26, 2008

### ***APPEALS COURT RULES: SHERIFF RUNS JAILS... Not Courts or Judges***

**(Phoenix, AZ)** A final decision came hours ago from the Arizona Court of Appeals upholding what Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio has been saying all along - that the jails are run by the Sheriff and not the courts or judges.

The months long debate over jail visitation hours culminated in today's ruling but began last November when Sheriff Arpaio reduced jail visitation hours.

Superior Court Judge Anna Baca then publicly blasted the Sheriff's Office proclaiming that the reduction in hours amounted to a violation of inmates' constitutional rights.

Her argument was shot down today after the entire record showed not even one inmate constitutional violation.

Arpaio's move to temporarily cut visitation hours from 15 hours a day to eight hours daily (except Fridays) to save taxpayers over \$900,000 prompted Baca and two public defenders to try to force the Sheriff to change his operation.

"You give this judge an inch and she'll take a mile," Arpaio says. "This judge apparently thought she could run the Sheriff's jails. Before you know it, she'd try to order me to give the inmates steaks and cappuccino. Not going to happen."

Jack MacIntyre, the Sheriff's Deputy Chief in his Custody Bureau adds, "The most important issue for Sheriff Arpaio was to insure that the Sheriff's constitutional authority as an elected official was not trampled upon by the courts or the public defender's office. The Sheriff is responsible to the voters. Judge Baca and these public defenders needed to be re-educated as to who really has the authority to manage the jails."

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News Release

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