

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 29, 2009

### ARPAIO REQUESTS REVIEW IN RECORDS DISPUTE

(Phoenix, AZ) Sheriff Joe Arpaio has filed a petition before the Arizona Court of Appeals to unravel a public records dispute with the Maricopa County Superior Court and its presiding judge.

In December 2007, Arpaio's office made a public records request for e-mails and other correspondence between the presiding Superior Court judge, several of her staff, and the Adult Probation administrator.

The Sheriff's Office followed up with a second request later that month and a third request under a Supreme Court rule in January 2008.

Despite assurances that the court was working on the requests, not one record was ever produced by the court administrator. Captain Paul Chagolla of the Sheriff's Office continued to press for release of the records by follow-up requests in January, April, October and December 2008.

"No records were ever produced – not one single document in over one year" said Arpaio. "The courts have ruled against me in the past for not producing records in a timely fashion. I believe the law should be the same for them as for anyone else".

News Release

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081

Media Pager: (602) 238-8097

E-mail: [SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)

An administrative review was filed, before the exact same judge and court system that had ignored the requests for over a year. The review was assigned to the Associate Presiding Judge, the number two administrator, in the same court system where the request had been ignored. Not surprisingly, the judge ruled in favor of his superior and supervisor – the Presiding Judge. This petition for review with the Court of Appeals followed.

Deputy Chief Jack MacIntyre says, “Arpaio is only looking for fair treatment – the same treatment he gets on public record court cases. He made a very simple request over a year ago. I cannot believe the court could not produce the e-mails and other correspondence in a few weeks. Now it has been a year and we are asking the Appeals Court to make the largest Superior Court system in the State of Arizona obey the law they’re appointed to enforce”.

“When this court administration blatantly ignores the law like this, it really fuels the fires of the people who want all judges elected”, said Arpaio. “I know the records must still be collected over at the court. No one would be so foolish as to destroy public records, especially with this open request pending.”

<END>

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003  
Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081  
Media Pager: (602) 238-8097 E-mail: [SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)