

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: February 25, 2009

Arpaio Demands Judge to Step Aside

CITING CONFLICT AS JUDGE'S TWIN SISTER HEADS ANTI-ARPAIO CAMPAIGN

(Phoenix, AZ.) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, through his attorney, asked Federal District Court Judge Mary Murguia to recuse herself from a pending lawsuit against the Sheriff and his Office.

The motion questions the Judge Murguia's ability to be impartial and unbiased after it came to light the judge's twin sister heads a national anti-immigration enforcement group, La Raza.

That sister is National Council of La Raza President Janet Murguia who has publicly made dozens of derogatory comments about Arpaio and his officers, calling them "thugs" and referring to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in general as a "lawsuit-riddled folly of a department."

Arpaio says everyone is entitled to their own opinion but all are also entitled to a fair and impartial judge or jury.

"To have even one of our lawsuits go before a judge whose twin sister routinely attempts to use her national position to destroy me, my officers, and our efforts to enforce the immigration law is wrong. My officers and I deserve to have an impartial, unbiased judge, the same as anyone else."

The question of impartiality due to the sibling relationship was exposed after Judge Murguia denied the Sheriff's motion to dismiss the Melendres case, a lawsuit which accuses Sheriff Arpaio deputies of racial profiling during routine traffic stops.

News Release

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

When the judge's decision was publicized, concerned citizens e-mailed, phoned and faxed articles to Arpaio, pointing out how often the judge's sister had publicly attacked the Sheriff and his policies.

Several federal statutes strongly support Arpaio's stand that Judge Murguia should step aside.

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003
Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081
Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov