

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: September 26, 2008

Arpaio's Office Wins 11th Judgment in a Row

Arpaio and Andrew Thomas Collaboration On Lawsuits Reaps Results

(Phoenix, AZ) September has resulted in three more federal lawsuits concluding with judgments in favor of Sheriff Joe Arpaio. This brings the total to 11 straight court victories for the Sheriff and his legal counsel appointed by County Attorney Andrew Thomas.

"This shows how effective a partnership between my office and a supportive County Attorney can be," said Sheriff Arpaio. "There are a handful of lawyers who try to intimidate the county into settling these baseless cases for a quick dollar."

In a press conference today Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas added, "Together we are a stronger entity capable of fighting the numerous frivolous lawsuits filed against the Sheriff's Office. Together, we have refused to simply settle lawsuits for vast amounts of taxpayer's money. Our resolve has led us to victory after victory in the courtroom and this excellent working relationship is a benefit to all county taxpayers."

Eleven straight court cases have been resolved in favor of Arpaio and other county defendants. The three most recent cases include:

1. Mitchell v. Arpaio – a Federal court jail conditions case alleging overcrowding, poor food and nutrition, and excessive force. Demanded approximately \$750,000, Defense Verdict.
2. Mathew Gray v. Arpaio – Federal court case alleging inadequate food, resulting in weight loss and malnutrition, overcrowding, unsanitary living conditions. Demanded nearly \$500,000, Summary Judgment for Defense Granted.

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

3. Patricia Dougherty v. Arpaio – Maricopa County Superior Court case alleging negligence, unsafe conditions, overcrowding in Estrella female facility. Demanded \$260,000, Directed Verdict for Defendants.

Other cases in the victory streak include:

- Thomas Stewart -- \$6 million demanded, defense jury verdict
- Lonnie Mitchell -- \$1 million demanded, defense jury verdict
- Phillip Wilson -- \$16 million demanded defense jury verdict
- Carol Bartels -- \$200,000 demanded, defense jury verdict
- Charles Byrd -- \$10.5 million demanded, defense jury verdict
- Christina Martinez -- \$350,000 demanded, defense jury verdict
- Dan Saban -- \$1 million demanded, defense jury verdict
- Christina Jimenez -- \$600,000 demanded, defense jury verdict

Jack MacIntyre, a deputy chief for the Sheriff’s Office, says “Fighting these cases saves taxpayers money and it sends a clear signal to those attorneys who think Maricopa County tax coffers are a bottomless pit. The Board of Supervisors clearly sees the wisdom in fighting these claims rather than settling them.”

For years, critics and political opponents of Sheriff Arpaio have made the false claim that jail house deaths have cost taxpayers \$40 million in expenses. That figure is patently untrue, according to county Risk Management figures which put jailhouse lawsuits payouts at \$17 million in the past 16 years, a far cry from the \$41 million dollars often repeated by the local media.

MacIntyre added, “Seventeen million dollars is a fraction of what the other major Sheriff’s offices have paid out in a much shorter time frame and the costs per citizen are much less for Maricopa County than many other local jurisdictions, including Phoenix and Mesa.”

<END>

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