



Editor,

I could not believe my eyes when I read your editorial of January 14, 2009 entitled "Loss of System's Seal of Approval - a Real Whodunit."

The second sentence of your editorial told readers that Correctional health Services is run by the Sheriff. That is absolutely untrue, factually incorrect and you know it.

Correctional Health Services does not report to Sheriff Arpaio. It is run by its own director who reports to the County Manager, NOT THE SHERIFF. In other words, Sheriff Arpaio does not administer healthcare to inmates and therefore cannot be blamed for the loss of accreditation.

In an article from Tuesday's paper "County jail stripped of health-care accreditation." your own reporters got it correct by placing the responsibility correctly on Correctional Health Services. The Sheriff was not even mentioned in that article. Why can't the editorial page get it right? Maybe you don't want to? It seems to me you are using the editorial page to do nothing but discredit thousands of Sheriff's employees and the Sheriff himself.

You went on to insinuate that lawsuits come fast and furious to Sheriff Arpaio's operations. Inmate lawsuits are a fact of life for every jail system in this country. The fact is, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has far fewer judgments resulting in less money paid than other county jails of comparable size.

The Sheriff's litigation bill is even much less than Phoenix and Mesa pay for their lawsuits and they don't even have a jail, much less the third largest jail system in the United States.

Once again, you do not let the facts get in the way of a “good” editorial and another chance to attack the Sheriff.

This Office is sick of your bias and pathetic coverage of Sheriff Arpaio.