

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: July 9, 2007

### **MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL IN \$16.5 MILLION DOLLAR INMATE DEATH LAWSUIT DENIED**

#### *Sheriff's Tent City Found to be Relatively Safe*

(Phoenix, AZ) Phoenix Personal Injury Attorney Michael Manning suffered a devastating blow in court late Friday in his unending attempts to publicly undermine and embarrass both Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the Sheriff's detention staff for the manner in which Tent City and the Sheriff's other jail facilities operate.

Federal District Court Judge David G. Campbell categorically denied Manning's motion for a new trial regarding the 2003 death of inmate Philip Wilson, saying that the weight of evidence presented in the "vigorously litigated" three week long trial supports the jury's verdict which found in favor of the Sheriff and Maricopa County on all 14 counts presented. Those counts included allegations of denial of constitutional rights violations and gross negligence.

The court case concluded on May 11, 2007 when a jury refused to assign any liability to the Sheriff's Office and the County or to award any money to the family of inmate Wilson.

In 2003 Wilson was housed in Tent City on drug related charges when he was assaulted by other inmates and died weeks later at a local hospital from the injuries he sustained in the assault.

"Over and over Michael Manning has attempted to crucify Sheriff Arpaio in the media," says Jack MacIntyre, Deputy Chief. "In fact, his personal vendetta against Arpaio is so deep that it has completely distorted Manning's perceptions of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and its jail operations."

News Release

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As for the Sheriff, he says, today the Tent City operation has been vindicated by the evidence presented at trial and by the jury's verdict, which was supported by the federal judge.

"Even the expert witness hired by Manning said Tent City was a relatively safe jail, and even conceded assault statistics at Tent City were considerably better than at his own former facility in Virginia," Arpaio says. "That's what I have been saying since I opened it in 1993. Tent City is a well run, cost effective, professionally operated jail that has proved to be a model facility. The citizens of this county know that to be true and now Mr. Manning does too."

A copy of the US District Court Order denying the petition for a new trial is available upon request.

Contact [SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov) within inquiries.

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