

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: October 30, 2007

SHERIFF 5  
PLAINTIFFS 0

### **Sheriff Wins Five Recent Jury Verdicts in a Row**

#### **Praises Attorney Wilenchik as a "Great Trial Lawyer"**

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio won his fifth (5) jury verdict in a row just hours ago when 12 men and women found Arpaio's office innocent of any wrongdoing in the case involving Lonnie Mitchell.

Mitchell was a 45 year old inmate who claimed he broke his neck in the jail's Intake Center in April 2004 because the cell he was housed in was "overcrowded."

Arpaio says he credits the attorney who represents the Sheriff's Office in many cases, Dennis Wilenchik, as a primary reason for repeated victories.

"Dennis Wilenchik exemplifies professionalism, tenaciousness and aggressiveness – characteristics needed to win in court," Arpaio says. "Taxpayers of this county owe Wilenchek a debt of gratitude. He has saved them millions of dollars."

Wilenchik was the lead attorney on three of the five latest cases where juries found in favor of the Sheriff's Office including the trials of Christina Jimenez, Saban, and now Mitchell.

Deputy Chief Jack MacIntyre, who is also an attorney, adds "When this Office goes to court, juries usually side with us. Too many plaintiffs' attorneys look at government as soft targets with deep pockets," he says. "Our posture of aggressive defense sends the message that we are not willing to roll over. When we fight, we win."

Arpaio credits the County Attorney Andrew Thomas and the Board of Supervisors as well for not settling these cases and for appointing such an aggressive, successful trial attorney as Wilenchik.

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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