

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



The Headline... Sheriff's Office Seeks Legal Fees: It wants county supervisors to transfer \$7 million, Arizona Republic

The Truth...

In today's headlines, the Arizona Republic writes about the Sheriff's Office's budget request for money to fund its legal fees.

As usual, reporter Yvonne Wingett's piece frames the Sheriff's request in a negative and biased manner.

Despite the Arizona Republic's knowledge that the Maricopa County Board of Supervisor's made a request of its own for \$5 million to cover its legal fees (big surprise that it was approved on December 2, 2009), the reporter hid this information from the public and her readership. Instead, balanced journalism be damned, the newspaper gleefully quotes the county manager's belief that the Sheriff's request for legal expenses (not the Board's however) is bloated and unusual.

The Arizona Republic has long been biased in its coverage of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his Office, even though doing so represents the rejection of ethics in journalism resulting in a loss in readership.

Obviously Arizona Republic reporter Yvonne Wingett continues her quest to be the Board's best reporter/ally, throwing aside her obligation to be fair and impartial by only reporting a pro Board of Supervisors/ County Administration agenda.

Today's news article is one of many examples of the newspaper's *obvious* bias against this Sheriff and this Office. The paper's editors operate more subtly at other times by quietly refusing to report on news items important to the community at large and thus widely covered by other Phoenix media. Very recently, the hard work of the Sheriff's volunteer posse, the dismissal of major lawsuits, the Sheriff's recent job approval polls and his controversial appearance before students at ASU were all summarily ignored by your hometown newspaper. Because these stories shed a favorable light on the Sheriff's Office, oddly, they never seem to make it onto the printed pages of the Arizona Republic newspaper.

The Truth

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