



Home » Office of Public Affairs

JUSTICE NEWS

Department of Justice

SHARE

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, September 2, 2010

Justice Department Files Lawsuit Against Maricopa County Sheriff's Office For Refusing Full Cooperation With Title VI Investigation

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department filed a lawsuit today against the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), Maricopa County, and Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio for refusing full cooperation with the department's investigation of alleged national origin discrimination in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits discrimination in programs that receive federal funds, and also requires grant recipients to cooperate with investigations of discrimination by providing access to documents, facilities and staff. MCSO signed contractual assurance agreements as a condition of receiving federal funds, and promised that it would cooperate with investigations of alleged discrimination.

The department filed today's lawsuit after exhausting all cooperative measures to gain access to MCSO's documents and facilities, as part of the department's investigation of alleged discrimination in MCSO's police practices and jail operations. Since March 2009, the department has attempted to secure voluntary compliance with the department's investigation. MCSO's refusal to cooperate with the investigation makes it an extreme outlier and the department is unaware of any other police department or sheriff's office that has refused to cooperate in the last 30 years.

"The actions of the sheriff's office are unprecedented. It is unfortunate that the department was forced to resort to litigation to gain access to public documents and facilities," said Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division.

The department's investigation of MCSO concerns alleged discrimination against Hispanics, in violation of the prohibition on national origin discrimination in Title VI; the pattern or practice provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968; and the pattern or practice provisions of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. Title VI prohibits discrimination in federally assisted programs on the ground of race, color, or national origin.

The department's investigation remains open and ongoing. For more information on the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, please visit www.justice.gov/crt.



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ACTION CENTER

- Report a Crime
- Get a Job
- Locate a Prison, Inmate, or Sex Offender
- Apply for a Grant
- Submit a Complaint
- Report Waste, Fraud, Abuse or Misconduct to the Inspector General
- Find Sales of Seized Property
- Find Help and Information for Crime Victims
- Register, Apply for Permits, or Request Records

United States of America v. Maricopa County, Arizona (PDF)

10-993

Civil Rights Division

Updated September 15, 2014

Identify Our Most Wanted Fugitives

Find a Form

Report and Identify Missing Persons

Contact Us



U.S. DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE | 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

JUSTICE.GOV

ABOUT

The Attorney General
Budget & Performance
Strategic Plans
History

RESOURCES

Forms
Publications
Case Highlights
Legislative Histories
Information for Victims in Large Cases

CAREERS

Legal Careers
Interns, Recent Graduates, and Fellows
Veteran Recruitment

AGENCIES

BUSINESS

Business Opportunities
Small & Disadvantaged Business
Grants

NEWS

The Justice Blog
Public Schedule
Videos
Photo Gallery

CONTACT

Archive
Accessibility
Adobe Reader
FOIA
No FEAR Act
Information Quality Resources
Privacy Policy
Legal Policies & Disclaimers
Social Media
For Employees
Office of the Inspector General
Government
Open Government
Plain Writing
USA.gov
BusinessUSA