



# Maricopa County Attorney

ANDREW P. THOMAS

301 W. JEFFERSON, SUITE 800  
PHOENIX, AZ 85003  
www.maricopacountyattorney.org

PH. (602) 506-3411  
TDD (602) 506-4352  
FAX (602) 506-8102

## This Just in from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.....

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A US District Judge in Phoenix has upheld the prosecution of those who conspire with smugglers to illegally enter Arizona. County Attorney Andrew Thomas has interpreted the state's human smuggling law as applying to those who hire human smugglers in addition to the smugglers. Sheriff Joe Arpaio is the only law enforcement agency head to consistently make use of that interpretation.

Activists for illegal immigrants have opposed the efforts of the County Attorney and the Sheriff to hold defendants accountable when they hire human smugglers in violation of A.R.S. § 13-2319. The Somos America Coalition of Arizona led a legal battle to end the prosecutions. The case has been pending since the fall of 2006.

On January 13, 2009 Federal Judge Robert Broomfield granted the County's motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

Thomas stated, "This ruling sends an important message that local government has the will and the legal means to address the illegal immigration problem in a manner harmonious and consistent with federal law. I call on county attorneys elsewhere in Arizona to review this ruling and give serious consideration to following our lead."

Sheriff Arpaio stated, "We have made over 1200 felony arrests by arresting the smugglers and their co conspirators since 2006. Since that time, I have taken so much criticism from politicians and open borders activists who say all my deputies do is arrest landscapers and dishwashers. I continue to be puzzled why this office remains the only law enforcement agency in Arizona to enforce all aspects of the human smuggling law and County Attorney Thomas is the only prosecutor who prosecutes them. Despite the vicious comments made by some elected officials and activists, I will continue to enforce this law and other immigration laws."

**If you have any questions please contact Mike Anthony Scerbo at  
602-506-3170 (office)  
602-489-6913 (cell)**