

News from SAVE OUR STATE

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Save Our State Director Chelene Nightingale Prevails Over Jim Gilchrist Again; Litigious Minuteman Founder Ordered to Pay Over \$10,000 For Subjecting Her to His Meritless Lawsuit.

Santa Ana, Calif. – November 19, 2008 – The Orange County Superior Court today again rebuked litigious Minuteman founder Jim Gilchrist by ordering him to pay Save Our State managing director Chelene Nightingale the sum of \$10,426.88. Judge Randell Wilkinson made the award against Gilchrist in order to reimburse Nightingale for the attorneys' fees and costs she incurred as a result of his meritless lawsuit, which was previously stricken on October 15, 2008.

This latest ruling is one in a long string of legal defeats suffered by Gilchrist. In April 2008, Gilchrist and his associate Stephen J. Eichler filed nearly identical lawsuits against a number of fellow anti-illegal immigration activists. These suits claimed that Minutemen Marvin Stewart, Deborah Courtney and Paul Sielski, California Coalition for Immigration Reform founder Barbara Coe, and Immigration Watchdog creator Brook Young had "defamed" Gilchrist and Eichler by commenting on the turmoil and legal battle within the Minuteman Project.

These ill-advised lawsuits have been repeatedly stricken, and the judgments against Gilchrist and Eichler are mounting. Gilchrist was previously ordered to pay Stewart, Courtney and Sielski the sum of \$18,888.33, and Coe \$9,100. The latest victory by Nightingale brings the total to over \$38,000.

Eichler, who claims to have a law degree and to host a Las Vegas radio show boasting 1.5 million listeners, was also previously ordered to pay Minutemen Courtney and Sielski the sum of \$4,380.75. Nightingale will seek fees from Eichler also.

"I am delighted to have represented Ms. Nightingale and vindicated her right to free speech about issues of public concern," said attorney Daniel F. Lula. "No American citizen should be cowed from speaking out about a prominent nonprofit entity like the Minuteman Project, especially where there are allegations of internal turmoil and misconduct. Ms. Nightingale did not deserve to be dragged into court, and today's award against Mr. Gilchrist is proof of that."

Unfortunately, it appears Gilchrist or those who support him are misrepresenting the state of the legal cases on his website, www.minutemancc.us. A post there claims that Eichler "won" his case on October 24, 2008, which is not the reality.

Save Our State is a California nonprofit corporation, working to educate the public about the negative effects of illegal immigration.

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