



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Judge Confirms \$600,000 Award to Arizona Rancher in Libel Case Against Environmental Group

(Tucson) In a Declaratory Judgment dated February 28, 2005, Arizona Superior Court Judge Richard Fields ordered that the *Center for Biological Diversity*, an environmental activist corporation based in New Mexico, must pay \$600,000 in actual and punitive damages to James K. Chilton and the *Chilton Ranch and Cattle Company* of Arizona.

This judgment confirmed a Tucson jury's verdict delivered on January 5, 2005, where the jury found the *Center for Biological Diversity* guilty of making "false, unfair, libelous and defamatory statements" against Jim Chilton, a fifth generation Southern Arizona Rancher. The jury awarded Chilton \$100,000 in actual damages, and \$500,000 in punitive damages because the *Center for Biological Diversity* defamed him and his family business in a two-page press release which included links to 21 photographs posted on the Center's website, in July 2002. The jury found that the press release and the corresponding images contained inaccurate and misleading content regarding Chilton's 21,500 acre Montana grazing Allotment which is located northwest of Nogales.

(more)

Chilton said the suit was filed to challenge the way the *Center for Biological Diversity* does business. “They don’t use science, they use scare tactics,” said Chilton. “They also use endangered species as surrogates to obtain their own goals and to raise money.” Chilton has also stated that after his expenses for this lawsuit are covered, he plans to donate the remaining money to the *Arizona Cattle Growers Association* to promote truth and responsibility with respect to cattle grazing issues.

Chilton was represented in this action by Kraig Marton, an attorney from the Phoenix-based law firm of *Jaburg and Wilk*. “My client’s character was attacked with inaccurate information and he got his day in court,” said Marton. “We are very pleased with the ruling,” he added.

The lawsuit named not only the *Center for Biological Diversity*, but also four of its current and former employees: Martin Taylor, author of the release; Shane Jimerfield, the Web site designer who posted it; and A.J. Schneller, who was responsible for some photos and captions, and Kieran Suckling, the Executive Director of the Center who, Marton says, set the tone for making the false statements.

The jury agreed with Chilton’s claim, citing the Center did make false statements in a news advisory, and that misleading photographs were used in an unsuccessful attempt to block the renewal of Chilton’s grazing permit.

For more information regarding this case, please contact Kraig Marton at **(602) 570-3510** or PRfect Media at **(480) 706-6880**.

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