

Your PBA Services from Your PBA General Counsel



*Hal
Johnson*

Actions Speak Louder Than Words – Part 1

It's called the whisper campaign. You have probably heard it yourself. It comes from police organizations such as the FOP or IUPA or the Teamsters. It goes something like this: "We do everything the PBA does and our dues are less. So sign this card and drop the PBA." Here is our response: "That is pure unadulterated B.S. Don't believe it!"

While there are some local organizations that do an excellent job for the members (the Jacksonville FOP comes to mind), no police organization in this State offers the services, the expertise or the political savvy of the Florida PBA and its charters and chapters. None! Zero! This is true whether you look to representation in internal affairs, disciplinary cases, CJSTC matters, collective bargaining, political influence, legislative accomplishments or legal defense assistance. Some organizations talk-the-talk, the PBA walks-the-walk!

Over the next few issues of the *Roll Call*, the Florida PBA will be highlighting both its services and accomplishments. Some of you may consider it bragging; we consider it setting the record straight. Once again, our actions speak louder than these other organizations' promises!

The first benefit the PBA wants you to consider is an extremely important one: legal representation for members who are criminally charged for alleged duty-related misconduct. Under the PBA program (which is included in your dues), the Florida PBA, its charters and chapters will represent members at no cost to the member. In other words, the PBA hires the attorneys and pays the legal fees and costs of the criminal defense.

To begin with, the Florida PBA does not know of any Florida police organization that offers members this same benefit. The Florida PBA has retained criminal attorneys with excellent reputations and years of experience to represent its members from Pensacola to Miami and Key West. Let's be clear: these are not attorneys with two years at the state attorney's office; these are experienced, seasoned criminal attorneys.

Does the PBA "really" provide this service? Absolutely! Think about it. If you are a member from Escambia County, **Roy Kinsey**, a Florida PBA retained attorney, has represented the deputies with duty-related criminal cases. If you are from Flagler County, you can thank the Florida PBA and criminal attorney, **Gloria Fletcher**, for the strong representation being provided deputies in pending cases there.

In Palm Beach County, members know that when duty-related criminal cases are filed either attorney **Scott Richardson** or **Michael Salnick** will be providing the representation. These are two attorneys with unparalleled reputations for successfully representing police officers.

Ask a Broward County deputy or Hallendale Beach officer about the local state attorney's office

recent indictment spree against police officers and deputies. They will tell you the Broward PBA provided excellent attorneys such as **Rhea Grossman** and **Al Milan** and paid all the legal bills for defending these series of cases.

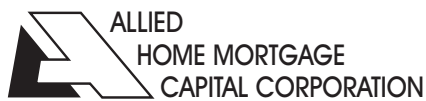
If you are a Miami-Dade or Sweetwater member, and need legal representation in a duty-related criminal case, you want (and will) be represented by **Doug Hartman** and **Mike Cornely**. Why? Because they have 30 combined years of experience representing police officers and they win their cases. Doug and Mike are the criminal attorneys who represent the Dade County PBA members.

Ask our corrections members about the Valdes murder case or the Charlotte CI federal criminal prosecution. Who represented the officers? In Valdes, a team of attorneys headed by **Hank Coxe** (immediate past president of the Florida Bar) and, once again, **Gloria Fletcher**, handled the successful defense of our members. In the Charlotte case, **Bob Burandt** and the late **Jim Neel** lead the successful defense of our members.

All of these cases were handled at no cost to the members being represented—none! Simply put, the PBA paid all the fees and the cost. Now, that is action and not words!

So, the next time someone approaches you about joining another police organization "that provides services just like the PBA, but the dues are less," tell them to cut the B.S. because you already belong to the best—the Florida PBA.

NOTE: During the time period of 2000-2006, the Florida PBA paid out approximately 6.8 million dollars to defend members in legal defense benefit cases. 🟦



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PLACE OF BALANCE...

Once upon a time in the Kingdom of Heaven, God was missing for six days. Eventually, Michael, the Archangel, found him, resting on the seventh day.

He inquired of God, "Where have you been?"

God sighed a deep sigh of satisfaction and proudly pointed downwards through the clouds, "Look, look what I've made."

Archangel Michael looked puzzled and said, "What is it?"

"It's a planet," replied God, "and I've put life on it. I'm going to call it Earth and it's going to be a great place of balance."

"Balance?" inquired Michael, still confused.

God explained, pointing to different parts of earth, "For example, this area will have the highest mountains in the world, while this area will be below sea level. This area will be extremely hot and dry, which I'm calling a desert and over there is a place that is hot and wet, which I'm calling the tropics," God continued, pointing to different places. "This one will be very cold and covered in ice. I'm going to populate the areas with people who will learn to adapt to their surroundings and be content where they are."

The Archangel, impressed by God's work, then pointed to a large land mass and said, "What's that one?"

"Ah," said God. "That's Florida, the most glorious place on earth. There are beautiful lakes, rivers, streams and climate. The people from Florida are going to be modest, intelligent and humorous and they are going to be found traveling the world. They will be extremely sociable, hardworking and high achieving, and they will be known throughout the world as diplomats and carriers of peace."

Michael gasped in wonder and admiration but then proclaimed, "What about balance, God? You said there would be balance!"

God replied wisely, "Wait until you see the people I'm sending them from the North every winter!"