

## NEWS RELEASE

### **MARKS GRAY WINS A DEFENSE VERDICT FOR THE CITY OF LAKE CITY**

The plaintiff, a former Lake City police officer, claims he was retaliated against and wrongfully fired for filing a charge of employment discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

The plaintiff, 44 at trial, contended he was targeted for harassment and discriminated against during his employment as a Lake City police officer. The plaintiff states that as a result of his complaints of discrimination, including filing a complaint with the EEOC, he was wrongfully terminated by the police chief.

The defendant, the City of Lake City, contended the cause of the officer's dismissal was predicated by an internal affairs investigation finding that the police officer gave false information and neglected his duties. The defendant argued the plaintiff lied to his supervisor over the status of his police car. The defendant states the plaintiff was aware of an internal investigation days before he complained of discrimination.

The first trial, held in April, 2015, resulted in a hung jury. The second trial was held in June, 2015. The defense successfully proved that Plaintiff was not subject to an Internal Affairs Investigation or termination because of his complaints of discrimination.

The jury deliberated for approximately three hours and found for the defendant.

#### REFERENCE

Hughes vs. City of Lake City: Case No. 3:12-cv-158-J-32-JBT

Filed U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida Jacksonville Division

Attorneys for defendant: Susan S. Erdelyi and Meagan L. Logan of Marks Gray in Jacksonville, FL.

## About Marks Gray

Marks Gray, with offices located in downtown Jacksonville and Jacksonville Beach, is a multi-faceted law firm with 25 attorneys experienced in a wide range of practice areas. Marks Gray takes immense pride in the highly personalized service it provides to its clients. The attorneys at Marks Gray represent local, regional, national and international clients in a variety of matters. The firm has a diverse practice that includes an extensive litigation practice in commercial and tort defense, professional liability defense, intellectual property, banking, real estate, business law, commercial transactions, probate, taxation, wealth succession, immigration and workers' compensation.

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