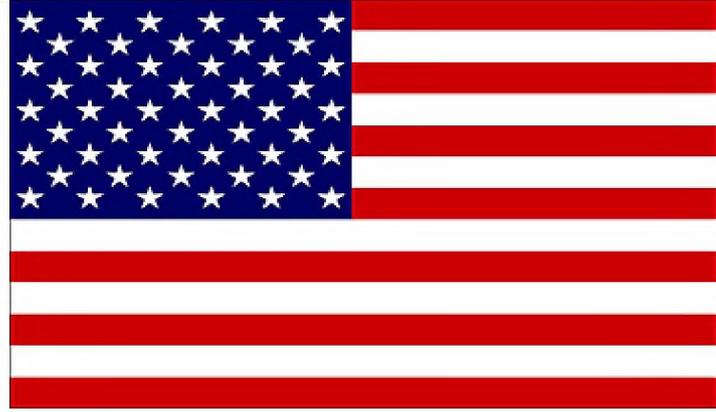


# Law and Disorder

## Stateside



**A**fter making over \$1 million in the stock market, the feds made 18 year old Cole Bartiromo pay it all back: they said he gained his profits using fraud. Bartiromo played baseball at school, but after his fraud case broke he was no longer allowed to participate in extracurricular sports. Bartiromo clearly learned a lot while sitting in court: he wrote and filed his own lawsuit against his high school, reasoning that he had planned on a pro baseball career but, as he was kicked off the school's team, pro scouts wouldn't be able to discover him. His suit demanded the school reimburse him for the great salary he would have made in the majors, which he figures is \$50 million.



Priest David Hanser, was one of the first Catholic priests to be caught up in the sex abuse scandal. In 1990, he settled a suit filed by one of his victims for \$65,000. In the settlement, he agreed not to work with children anymore, but the victim learned that Hanser was ignoring that part of the agreement. The victim appealed to the church, asking it to stop Hanser from working near children, but the church refused to intervene. "It's up to the church to decide where he works," argued the priest's lawyer. When the outraged victim went to the press to warn the public that a pedophile priest was near children, Hanser sued him for the same \$65,000 because he violated his own part of the deal, to keep the settlement secret. A clear message of shut up about abuse, or we'll sue you for catching us.



After Wanda Hudson of Alabama lost her home to foreclosure, she moved her belongings to a storage unit. She said she was inside her unit one night "looking for some papers" when the storage yard manager found the door to her unit ajar and locked it. She denied that she was sleeping inside, but incredibly did not call for help or bang on the door to be let out! Not found for 63 days, she barely survived; the former 150-pound woman lived on food she just happened to have in the unit, and was a mere 83 pounds when she was found. She sued the storage yard for \$10 million claiming negligence. Although the jury was not allowed to learn that Hudson had previously diagnosed mental problems, it found she was nearly 100 percent responsible for her own predicament; but still awarded her \$100,000.



Doug Baker of Oregon said that God "steered" him to a stray dog. He admitted "People thought I was crazy" to spend \$4,000 in vet bills to bring the injured mutt back to health, but hey, it was God's dog! But \$4,000 was nothing: he couldn't even take his girlfriend out to dinner without getting a dog-sitter to watch him. When the skittish dog escaped the sitter, Baker didn't just put an ad in the paper, he bought display ads so he could include a photo. His business collapsed since he devoted full time to the search for the dog. He didn't propose to his girlfriend because he wanted the dog to deliver the ring to her. He hired four "animal psychics" to give him clues to the animal's

whereabouts, and a witch to cast spells. He even spread his own urine around to "mark his territory" to try to lure the dog home! And, he said, he cried every day. Two months into the search, he went looking for the dog where it got lost and quickly found it. His first task: he put a collar on the mutt. (He hadn't done that before for a dog that was so "valuable"?!) After finding the dog, he sued the dog sitter, demanding \$20,000 for the cost of his search, \$30,000 for the income he lost by letting his business collapse, \$10,000 for "the temporary loss of the special value" of the dog, and \$100,000 in "emotional damages". God was not named as a defendant.



Californian police officer Marcy Noriega had the suspect from a minor disturbance handcuffed in the back of her patrol car. When the suspect started to kick at the car's windows, Officer Noriega decided to subdue him with her Taser. Incredibly, instead of pulling her stun gun from her belt, she pulled her service sidearm and shot the man in the chest, killing him instantly. The city, however, says the killing is not the officer's fault; it argues that "any reasonable police officer" could "mistakenly draw and fire a handgun instead of the Taser device" and has filed suit against Taser, arguing the company should pay for any award from the wrongful death lawsuit the man's family has filed. What a slur against every professionally trained police officer who knows the difference between a real gun and a stun gun! ●