

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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March 28, 2016

(505) 660-2216

Attorney General Balderas Announces \$605K Judgements in Meth Money Laundering Case

The civil penalties are believed to be the first ever assessed in New Mexico following money laundering convictions

Alamogordo, NM – This afternoon, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that an Alamogordo judge, the Honorable James W. Counts, assessed \$605,000 in penalties against brothers Joe and Robert Chavez, nicknamed “the AZ Boys”, who ran a meth-trafficking operation between New Mexico and Arizona. In 2014, both were convicted at trial of felonies including racketeering, conspiracy, drug trafficking, and multiple counts each of money laundering. The Office of the Attorney General jointly prosecuted these criminal cases with the Twelfth Judicial District Attorney’s Office. The civil penalties, sought by the Office of the Attorney General, are believed to be the first ever assessed in New Mexico following money laundering convictions.

“We are attacking criminal enterprises and money laundering on all fronts in New Mexico, both criminal and civil,” Attorney General Balderas said. “The Office of the Attorney General maintains an aggressive anti-money laundering initiative funded by the Southwest Border Alliance and we will continue to root out money laundering operations and associated crimes in our state.”

New Mexico’s money laundering statute, NMSA 1978, Section 30-51-4 (1998), provides that anyone convicted of money laundering is subject to a civil penalty of three times the value of the property involved in the crime. In December 2014, following the Chavez criminal convictions, the Office of the Attorney General filed civil complaints asking the Honorable James W. Counts to assess those penalties. Late last week, Judge Counts granted summary judgment for the State of New Mexico in these matters, assessing a penalty against Joe in the amount of \$479,759.25 and against Robert in the amount of \$125,400.00.

Both Joe and Robert Chavez are currently incarcerated in the Department of Corrections as a result of their 2012 convictions. Joe Chavez is also currently facing unrelated first-degree murder charges in Otero County.

Please see attached for photos of the brothers and the judgements.

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IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF OTERO
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

STATE OF NEW MEXICO ex rel.
Hector Balderas, Attorney General,
Plaintiff,

vs.

D-202-CV-2014-419

ROBERT CHAVEZ,
NMCD #77999, Offender #502122
DOB: 10/11/1972
SSN: xxx-xx-9930

Defendant.

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
SECOND MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

This matter came before this Court on Plaintiff's Second Motion for Summary Judgment, filed October 30, 2015. On March 7, 2016, Defendant filed a Motion to Waive Summary Judgment Hearing and Concede to the Plaintiff that Defendant Does Not Contest Its Civil Action.

This Court, having considered the evidence and arguments presented, finds **in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant as to Plaintiff's Second Motion for Summary Judgment**.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED, the Plaintiff recover damages in the amount of \$125,400.00. This Court further finds this judgment is based on tortious conduct, bad faith or intentional or willful acts. Thus, post-judgment interest shall accrue at a rate fifteen percent per year.

If this case is appealed and Defendant-Appellant wishes to stay execution of the judgment, he shall file with the magistrate court an appeal bond in the amount of \$125,400.00.

State v. Robert Chavez, D-1215-CV-2014-419
Order Granting Plaintiff's Second Motion for Summary Judgment



HONORABLE JAMES WAYLON COUNTS
District Court Judge

Submitted by:

_____/s/_____
ZACH JONES
Assistant Attorney General

IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF OTERO
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

STATE OF NEW MEXICO ex rel.
Hector Balderas, Attorney General,
Plaintiff,

v.

D-1215-CV-2014-666

JOE DAVID CHAVEZ, JR.,
NMCD #78577, Offender #502993
DOB: 10/02/1969
SSN: xxx-xx-9807

Defendant.

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

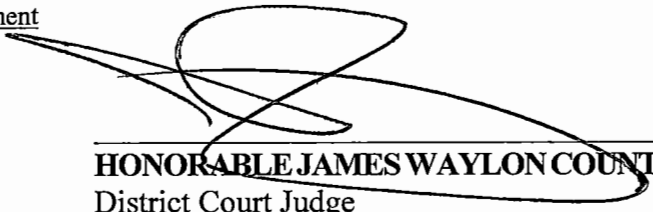
This matter came before this Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment, filed October 29, 2015. On March 7, 2016, Defendant filed a Motion to Waive Summary Judgment Hearing and Concede to the Plaintiff that Defendant Does Not Contest Its Civil Action.

This Court, having considered the evidence and arguments presented, finds **in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant as to Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment**.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED, the Plaintiff recover damages in the amount of \$479,759.25. This Court further finds this judgment is based on tortious conduct, bad faith or intentional or willful acts. Thus, post-judgment interest shall accrue at a rate fifteen percent per year.

If this case is appealed and Defendant-Appellant wishes to stay execution of the judgment, he shall file with the magistrate court an appeal bond in the amount of \$479,759.25.

State v. Joe Chavez, Jr., D-1215-CV-2014-666
Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment



HONORABLE JAMES WAYLON COUNTS
District Court Judge

Submitted by:

_____/s/_____
ZACH JONES
Assistant Attorney General

IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF OTERO
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

STATE OF NEW MEXICO ex rel.
Hector Balderas, Attorney General,
Plaintiff,

v.

D-1215-CV-2014-419

ROBERT CHAVEZ,
Defendant.

TRANSCRIPT OF JUDGMENT

NATURE OF ACTION: Civil penalty pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 30-51-4(C)
(1998).

JUDGMENT CREDITOR: State of New Mexico
Department of Finance and Administration – General Fund
407 Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

JUDGMENT DEBTOR: Robert Chavez
DOB: 10/11/1972
SSN: xxx-xx-9930
NMCD #77999, Offender #502122
New Mexico Department of Corrections – Guadalupe
County Correctional Facility
South Highway 54, P.O. Box 520
Santa Rosa, New Mexico 88435

AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT: Damages: \$125,400.00
Rate of interest: 15% per annum
Total: \$125,400.00 (as of March 24, 2016)

DATE JUDGMENT FILED: March 23, 2016

I, Katina Watson, Clerk of the District Court of the Twelfth Judicial District of the State of New Mexico, within and for the County of Otero, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true transcript of judgment of said Court, now in record in my office.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Seal of this Court this 25th
day of March, 2016.



(SEAL)

Katina Watson
Clerk of the District Court

By: /s/ Angela Harris

IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF OTERO
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

STATE OF NEW MEXICO ex rel.
Hector Balderas, Attorney General,
Plaintiff,

v.

D-1215-CV-2014-666

JOE DAVID CHAVEZ, JR.,
Defendant.

TRANSCRIPT OF JUDGMENT

NATURE OF ACTION: Civil penalty pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 30-51-4(C)
(1998).

JUDGMENT CREDITOR: State of New Mexico
Department of Finance and Administration – General Fund
407 Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

JUDGMENT DEBTOR: Joe David Chavez, Jr.
DOB: 10/2/1969
SSN: xxx-xx-9807
NMCD #78577, Offender #502993
New Mexico Department of Corrections – Guadalupe
County Correctional Facility
South Highway 54, P.O. Box 520
Santa Rosa, New Mexico 88435

AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT: Damages: \$479,759.25
Rate of interest: 15% per annum
Total: \$479,759.25 (as of March 24, 2016)

DATE JUDGMENT FILED: March 23, 2016

I, Katina Watson, Clerk of the District Court of the Twelfth Judicial District of the State of New Mexico, within and for the County of Otero, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true transcript of judgment of said Court, now in record in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Seal of this Court this 25th
day of March, 2016.

(SEAL)



Katina Watson
Clerk of the District Court

By: /s/ Angela Harris