

ORANGE COUNTY

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FRANK MICKADEIT

# George can't seem to stay out of court

Lawyer **Dan Callahan** phoned in from Buenos Aires with the latest on the Cavallo-Haidl lawsuit. Just when you thought the fight over legal fees couldn't get any better, Callahan has introduced a fun and familiar character into the drama - **George Jaramillo!**

Callahan wants to take Jaramillo's deposition because, "We believe he is going to be testifying favorably for **(Joe) Cavallo**, because we believe he was present when **Don Haidl** agreed to pay Cavallo for Trial 1 and Trial 2." Cavallo has sued Haidl, saying he paid only a portion of the defense bill for the first trial and none of the bill for the second trial. He hasn't specified an amount, but I estimate it at \$1.5 million.

It seems Daddy Haidl doesn't want Jaramillo deposed, however, and cites **Greg Haidl's** Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination as his reasoning. In other words, Greg Haidl's appeal on sexual assault crimes could be jeopardized by information Jaramillo might give during his deposition. That's crazy, Callahan says. "We're not going to ask him questions about the underlying proceedings" - just about his knowledge of the legal fees. (Remember, the two former assistant sheriffs were once tight. Upon his son's arrest, Haidl immediately sought Jaramillo's counsel, and Jaramillo went with him out to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, where he did or didn't wrongly try to interfere with the administration of justice, depending upon your point of voice.)

In any case, Judge **Clay Smith** sided with Callahan and ordered Jaramillo's deposition to go forward today - one day before he *was* scheduled to present himself to the Fullerton Hotel and Spa for eight months of pampering. This issue is far from over, though, because Don Haidl is still fighting to keep himself from being deposed and from turning over the Haidl case files to Cavallo - all on the same Fifth Amendment grounds. A hearing on those issues is scheduled next week.

**O.C. political** consultant and former cop **Steve Spernak** took receipt of a \$1 bill last week from the parents of slain L.A. sheriff's deputy **David March** shortly after March's killer pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life without parole. The \$1 was the second half the \$2 fee Spernak charged the Marches to run a campaign advocating the extradition of the killer from Mexico. He was finally brought to justice when Mexican courts rescinded a ruling that had prohibited the extradition of suspects who face life sentences in the U.S.

A column of mine finally made it into the National Enquirer, where a lot of you think I belong anyway. Unfortunately, I didn't get a byline. Page 50 of the March 5 edition ("**Katie to Tom: 'You Can't Control Me Anymore'**") featured the **Josh and Lauri Waring** estrangement from my true-life "Housewives" chronicles, replete with quotes lifted from my earlier work. Lifted, that is, unless Josh told the Enquirer *exactly* what he told me, which I doubt. ... But I haven't been able to get in touch with Josh to find out because, well, he's been in jail. Sigh. I got a call from his biological father the other day saying Josh had been picked up in San Diego on an auto-theft charge. His dad says he was merely a passenger in a car he didn't realize had been stolen. Fortunately, I'm pretty sure no judge has ever heard that defense. He'll probably bail out this week. ... In other "Housewives"-related crime, hubby **Scott Bryant's** assault-and-battery case is set for trial on May 8, but this has been postponed several times already. I won't be surprised if there's a plea.

Meanwhile, Housewife **Jeana Keough** emailed to tell me she and daughter **Kara** rescued a motorcyclist they saw get hit on the 405 in L.A. He "flew through the air in a perfect summersault and landed in the car pool lane," she says. "Kara and I slammed on our brakes (*You were both driving?*) and had him crawl into the car." (*Was it the Audi, the Beemer or Colton's illegal golf cart? Just wondering.*) Then, Jeana says, they drove him to the nearest hospital as he went into shock. And lo and behold, the dispatcher they were talking to on the cell phone and the triage nurse in the E.R. recognized her name and face, respectively. The guy survived. "It is another life lesson I was happy to be able to teach my daughter; so many of our children are not prepared to deal with emergencies." (*Am I really publishing this crap?*) She signed off with, "Hope you got paid" for the Enquirer piece. (*They'd be lucky to have me.*)

**For stuff anything** but trivial, see the 2007 Frank-o-pedia next to my column at [www.ocregister.com/columns/](http://www.ocregister.com/columns/). No trans fat!

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