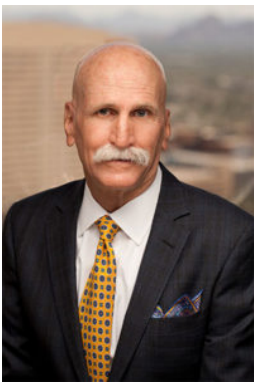


June 6, 2017 | Case Summaries, News



*Yolanda Erickson, et al. v. City Phoenix, et al* – On

July 28, 2013, Phoenix Police officers responded to a Phoenix Police dispatch involving a shirtless man (Miguel Ruiz) damaging an A/C unit located on the roof of his apartment. After police arrived, officers used a bucket crane and attempted to talk Ruiz down from the roof. Ruiz, stating that others were trying to kill him, ignored the officers' commands and refused to come down from the roof. After multiple attempts to convince him to come down from the roof, Ruiz began to scoot to the side of the roof, toward a second-floor landing outside the front door of an apartment unit. Officer Camarillo, one of the Phoenix Police officers on scene, positioned himself near the stairwell in case Ruiz jumped onto the landing. After Ruiz jumped nearly 10 feet to the second-floor landing, Officer Camarillo grabbed him, putting his arms around Ruiz's neck. Within a few seconds, other officers attempted to restrain Ruiz by his arms and legs. Another officer also tased Ruiz multiple times, but it had no effect on him. After more than four minutes of struggling to control Ruiz, Officer Camarillo applied a carotid hold to Ruiz. Officers were then able to subdue Ruiz and carry him down to EMS personnel, who determined that Ruiz was pulseless. Although EMS resuscitated Ruiz, he was taken off life support five days later due to an anoxic brain injury. It was later revealed that Ruiz had significant amounts of methamphetamine in his system.

Ruiz's mother, Yolanda Erickson, filed a Complaint against Officer Camarillo, on July 28, 2014. Ms. Erickson claimed that Officer Camarillo's conduct was negligent, grossly negligent, and that Officer Camarillo violated Ruiz's Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Attorneys [John Masterson](#), [Joe Popolizio](#) and [Justin Ackerman](#) filed a partial motion to dismiss and motion for summary judgment, eliminating all but Ms. Erickson's claim for excessive force under the Fourth Amendment. JSH attorneys then proceeded to trial on the excessive force claim, which ultimately resulted in a complete defense verdict after the jury deliberated for less than one hour.

#### **About Jones, Skelton & Hochuli:**

With more than 80 lawyers, Jones, Skelton & Hochuli, P.L.C. (JSH) is the largest and most experienced trial defense law firm in Arizona specializing in insurance and insurance coverage. Our lawyers focus their practice in the defense of corporations, self-insureds, government entities, insurance carriers and medical malpractice carriers. For additional information please visit [jshfirm.com](http://jshfirm.com) or call 602.263.1700.