



NEWS RELEASE

June 6, 2005
For Immediate Release

Contact: Kraig Marton (602) 570-3510
PRfect Media (480) 706-6880

Judge Denies Post-Trial Motions In Libel and Defamation Case Against Environmentalists

(Tucson) Arizona Superior Court Judge Richard Fields has denied post-trial motions by the *Center for Biological Diversity* aimed at reversing a \$600,000 jury award to Arizona cattle rancher Jim Chilton, who was the target of libelous and defamatory statements by the Center. Judge Fields validated the jury award and described the jurors as “intelligent, attentive to detail, outwardly thoughtful,” and not motivated by passion or prejudice.

“Following careful evaluation of these supplemental pleadings, the judge clearly confirmed that the jury acted appropriately,” said Chilton’s attorney, Kraig Marton.

The jury’s verdict, delivered on January 21, 2005, found the *Center for Biological Diversity* guilty of making “false, unfair, libelous and defamatory statements” against Jim Chilton, a descendent of pioneer ranching families in Arizona. The jury determined that the Center knowingly and maliciously published a press release and defamatory and misleading photographs after failing to stop the Forest Service from reauthorizing the Chilton Ranch grazing permit.

“Arizona cattle ranchers are an important part of the present economy. They are also a central feature of the cultural history of Arizona,” observed Chilton. “Today’s ranchers are environmentally responsible and have the scientific data to prove good resource management.” He added, “The jury heard three weeks of testimony from scientists and experts, and they understood what the Center had done.”

For more information regarding this lawsuit, Kraig Marton can be reached at the Phoenix-based law firm of Jaburg & Wilk at (602) 570-3510. ###