

**SAN FRANCISCO POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION'S MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT AND "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2013"**



**BLAKE P. LOEBIS**

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Blake Loebis joined Meyers Nave after serving 22 years as a Deputy City Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco.

As Chief of Civil Rights Litigation for nine years, he served as first chair in over 25 civil jury trials defending the City and County of San Francisco from civil suits involving officer-involved shootings, allegations of police misconduct, and catastrophic personal injuries. He also assisted in drafting General Orders for the San Francisco Police Department, shaping policies on matters including officer-involved shootings and vehicle chases.

Reflecting his special expertise defending police officers in deadly force incidents, the San Francisco Police Officers Association awarded Blake with the Medal of Honor and "Citizen of the Year 2013"; the two highest honors that can be bestowed on civilians.

**GUIDE TO DEFENDING AGAINST EXCESSIVE FORCE CLAIMS** - Blake published an article in the *Daily Journal* that outlines how important it is in civil rights cases for defense counsel to develop and act on an end-game strategy as early as possible.

Blake has briefed and argued numerous appeals before the Ninth Circuit and the California Courts of Appeal, taken and defended over 1,000 depositions, and argued over 500 motions in federal and state court.

He has an extensive record of successful jury trials, dismissals and favorable settlements of cases involving allegations of police misconduct, officer-involved shootings, deaths-in-custody, and claims of wrongful arrest.

Blake has developed reports and testimony in many fields of expertise, including police practices, suicide-by-cop, blood spatter analysis, ballistics, photogrammetry, trajectory analysis, crime scene reconstruction, computer animation, toxicology, fiber analysis, rap lyrics, accident reconstruction, fingerprint/DNA analysis, orthopedic medicine, and vocational rehabilitation.

**REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE**

*Souliotes v. City of Modesto* – allegations against police and fire department personnel re: malicious prosecution, fabrication of evidence, unconstitutionally suggestive identification, nondisclosure of material evidence (Brady), supervisory liability, conspiracy, and Monell (city liability) regarding plaintiff's triple first degree murder conviction in 2000, 16-year incarceration and release based on ineffective assistance of counsel; Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court's dismissal of the case prior to any discovery.

*Abuslin v. City of Richmond* – allegations of inappropriate sexual contact between seven police officers and plaintiff; case dismissed with prejudice for a waiver of costs immediately in advance of defendants filing a motion to dismiss.

*Pontillo v. City of Modesto* – allegations that police officers maliciously assisted in the prosecution of a bail bondsman; motion to dismiss all claims against Modesto granted with prejudice.

*Fletcher v. City of Modesto* – allegations that two officers shot and killed a man who was not a threat; plaintiffs dismissed for waiver of costs pre-discovery.

*August v. City of Modesto* – allegations that an officer shot and killed an unarmed man; plaintiff dismissed for waiver of costs pre-discovery.

*Pickett v. City of Richmond* – allegations of false arrest, illegal search of vehicle, and excessive force; plaintiff dismissed all claims for a waiver of costs two months before trial and apologized in person to the officers.

*Miller v. Santa Clara County* – allegations of prisoner abuse against County and 44 defendants involving 10 separate incidents; defense counsel maneuvered plaintiff into dismissing all claims with prejudice for a waiver of costs prior to extensive discovery or dispositive motions being heard.

*Holcomb v. City of Modesto* - allegations that two officers assaulted and falsely arrested a man after a traffic related incident; defense verdict after a two-week federal jury trial.

*Espinosa v. City and County of San Francisco* - allegation that officers shot and killed an unarmed man in his home without provocation; defense verdict after a one-month jury trial.

*Dunklin v. City and County of San Francisco* - allegations that officers shot an unarmed man in a wheelchair; summary judgment for defense; affirmed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

*Sheehan v. City and County of San Francisco* - allegations that officers unnecessarily shot an emotionally disturbed woman; defendants won on summary judgment; qualified immunity upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

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[bloeb@meyersnave.com](mailto:bloeb@meyersnave.com)**POLICE OFFICER TESTIMONIALS****Sgt. James O'Malley\***

"Blake Loeb defended me and my partner in a fatal officer-involved shooting which took years to resolve. In the end, Blake convinced the federal jury that my partner and I were completely justified in using lethal force. Blake knew every fact of the case, forward and back, right down to the smallest detail.

The plaintiffs in the case were unable to overcome Blake's level of knowledge of the facts of the case and police procedure/tactics. No stone went unturned, no detail was overlooked. In the courtroom I observed Blake's mastery of federal civil rights trial rules and aggressive cross examination of witnesses -- clearly game changers in the case.

To this day, and beyond my retirement, I will forever owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Blake for saving my career and thus allowing me to move forward with my life."

**Sgt. John Keesor\***

"I am a police officer and I had the good fortune to have Blake Loeb represent me in an officer-involved shooting trial. On June 6, 2006, I experienced one of the most traumatic moments of my life. That night, when I thought that my partner was being killed and that I would be next, I was forced to shoot and kill an individual to protect my life and the lives of my fellow officers. A few months after the incident, I found out I was being sued by the suspect's family and they were seeking punitive damages against me, personally.

I was informed that the city attorney's office would be representing me, as well as the police department that I work for and Blake Loeb was the Deputy City Attorney assigned to my case. He let me know immediately that I was his client, and that he would fight for me as an individual. I was also surprised by how well he understood what we do as officers and what had happened in the incident. He clearly knew what he was doing. When I spoke to Blake he paid close attention to every aspect of my account of the incident; no piece appeared to be insignificant to him.

The case went to trial in September 2014. As he promised to do so in our first meeting, Blake kept me informed throughout the entire process. Blake and his colleagues worked tirelessly to have this matter resolved short of trial, even taking the matter before the United States Supreme Court. When the United States Supreme Court decided not to hear our case, Blake's commitment to me and my fellow officers did not waiver. He prepared this case for trial as if he were defending a family member.

During trial Blake shined. He was tenacious. He, along with the rest of the team, presented a clear concise case. Most importantly, he put the jury in my shoes that night and let them experience, as much as they could, what my fellow officers and I experienced. And, he was able to show the jury exactly how the suspect's actions gave me and my partner no choice but to fire our weapons that evening.

After over a month of trial, we won. The jury unanimously found in our favor on everything, after only deliberating four hours. If that does not prove Blake's commitment and talents, then I do not know what does. In a case like mine, there are always people who have some doubt; however, Blake always believed in me. There was never a moment where his loyalty to the case or to me ever wavered. I think that it was his belief in me that made the whole lawsuit experience bearable. If I ever need an attorney again, I would want it to be Blake.

\* I make this endorsement as an individual, and not in my official capacity as provided by San Francisco Police Department General Order 2.01, section 55.