

707 SW Washington Street  
Suite 1410  
Portland, OR 97205



CA Bar 171982, OR Bar 193669  
erikg@gundersonemploymentlaw.com  
Voice: 503-713-1710 Text: 503-868-0519

22 April 2026

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

RE: *William Bailey v. Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, et al.*

We represent William Bailey with respect to his legal claims against the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and the County of Deschutes. Generally, our public filings on behalf of our clients are our only communication with the public.

However, we're aware that there is great public interest in this matter. We are still exploring all of the potential issues raised by the intricate facts of this situation. Had the County heard what I had to say today, I would have told them three things.

First, I would have told them that the legal process by which the matter has come before the County Commissioners is very unclear to me.

Second, I would have told them that this matter resembles the whistleblower cases we usually handle excepting mostly that in private employer cases, substantial effort is usually devoted to refuting the truth of what the whistleblower had to say. Not here.

Third, I would have pointed out that the County has substantially undervalued Bill Bailey's right to speak freely on matters of public concern.

I would have urged that this 24-year veteran be reinstated. He deserves no less.

Our involvement in this matter is only beginning. With that noted, it appears to us right now that everything that William Bailey has ever discussed in any public forum was both of legitimate public interest, and true.

We respect that people care about the situation. We appreciate those who express sentiments of support for William Bailey, transparency in government, integrity in law enforcement, freedom of speech, due process of law, and public accountability. People should let their elected officials know that they, too, value those things.

Disputes of all sorts ought be resolved through peaceful, lawful processes, and on their factual and legal merits. To that end, we anticipate that future communication about Mr. Bailey's claims concerning his former employment will come in the form of appropriate legal filings.

/s/

Erik Gunderson  
Gunderson Employment Law, LLC