



Federal Jury Trial Victory for PDP Attorney Sam Gates

Pierce Davis & Perritano attorney Sam Gates secured a defense verdict on behalf of Chief Patrick Keefe and Lieutenant Chad Cooper of the Town of Andover Police Department on a civil rights claim brought by former Andover resident Marie Winfield.

The verdict was announced on March 14, 2019 following a four-day jury trial before Judge William Young in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. The twelve-person jury found that Keefe and Cooper did not violate Winfield's constitutional rights when they removed her from the lobby of the Andover Police Station. Winfield claimed that officers used excessive force. But the evidence at trial clearly showed that Winfield caused a disturbance in the lobby and, over a period of two and half hours, ignored repeated requests to leave voluntarily before being gently escorted to her car. The entire incident was captured by video surveillance and the jury deliberated for under two hours before reaching a verdict in favor of the officers.

PDP partner, Adam Simms, defended Chief Keefe and Lieutenant Cooper through the pre-trial discovery phase.

The case is Marie Winfield, et al. v. Town of Andover, et al., case number 1:17-CV-11051-WGY