

Ex-guard sues county

Acquitted of beating inmates, Folsom man seeks \$ for defense costs

By SHANNON P DUFFY
Times Correspondent

PHILADELPHIA – A former Delaware County Prison guard who was acquitted in April of federal charges that he beat inmates is now suing the county to get back the \$25,000 he paid his lawyer to keep his freedom.

Jamie Campbell, 23, of Folsom, was one of nine former guards charged in January with civil rights abuses in connection with a series of inmate beatings – and the only one cleared of all charges.

Five of the guards pleaded guilty in February, Four others, including Campbell, stood trial in April, but only Campbell was acquitted on all charges.

Campbell's lawyer, A. Charles Peruto, Jr. is also representing him in the civil lawsuit to recover his legal expenses.

According to the suit, the county had a duty to defend Campbell because the former guard was "acting within the scope of his authority and on duty as a correctional officer at Delaware County Prison at all times relevant to the accusation contained in the indictment."

In a telephone interview, Peruto said that if Campbell had been convicted, "he wouldn't have a leg to stand on (in the suit for defense costs), because it would have been outside the scope of his duties (as a guard)."

The suit says "the county, which hired and paid Campbell, never gave him notice or warning that he would be compelled to support his own defense in the event of a baseless suit against him in his professional capacity."

Earning just \$7 per hour as prison guard, the suit says Campbell "would have to work three years – without eating a morsel of food in order to pay to defend himself against baseless accusations."