



Farraj Awarded Nearly \$8 Million in California Quick Pick Super Lotto Fraud Trial

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POMONA, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Sept. 30, 2003--At 5:00 PM today and after only one day of deliberation, a unanimous Pomona Superior Court jury of twelve determined that plaintiff Arwa Farraj is the rightful owner of an \$8 million California Quick Pick Super Lotto ticket purchased December 25, 1999, at the Circle K store in La Verne, CA. Circle K Stores (NYSE:COP) and Gurinder Ruby were found liable for fraud and conversion, and must pay Farraj \$3,982,000.00 for the value of the ticket plus \$3,982,000.00 for emotional distress. Circle K, ConocoPhillips' retail division, is based in Tempe, AZ.

The trial began September 17, 2003, with jury deliberations beginning and ending on September 30, 2003. The case was presided over by the Hon. Peter J. Meeka. Farraj was represented by Browne Greene and Mark Quigley with the Santa Monica, CA. law firm of Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, LLP. Arwa Farraj vs. Gurinder Ruby and Circle K Stores, Inc., Case No. KC032486.

"I am grateful to the jury for seeing the truth"

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"I am grateful to the jury for seeing the truth," said Arwa Farraj, "and for declaring me the rightful owner of the winning lottery ticket. It has been a difficult road to travel, but as a newcomer to the United States, I really have faith in how the American justice system works. At least now, I can do good things with the money that I have won, and to make sure that my family will want for nothing."

"Circle K was held responsible today because its employee, Gurinder Ruby, acted completely within the course and scope of his employment," said Browne Greene. "As a Circle K employee, Ruby owed a duty to its customer, Arwa Farraj, to honestly tell her that she had won the Super Lotto. Instead, Ruby lied and converted the lottery ticket for his own use, letting her think that she had won \$88 instead of the \$8 million that was rightfully hers. Once on notice that ownership of the ticket was in dispute, Circle K took only the feeblest of steps to seek the truth, failing its customer yet again."

"Arwa Farraj and her family came to the United States from Jordan seeking the American dream of freedom," said Mark Quigley, "and hoping, just like so many of us do, that we might actually beat the odds and win the lottery. On December 25, 1999, Arwa Farraj beat those odds and held an \$8 million winning lottery ticket only to be duped out of it by Circle K's employee Gurinder Ruby. Three long years later, she is finally able to enjoy the fruits of her good luck, which is why her victory is bittersweet, but our firm is pleased to have helped Arwa Farraj have her day in court."

Farraj filed suit in February 2000 against Circle K Stores and Gurinder Ruby for fraud and conversion, alleging that she had been deceived by Ruby into giving her winning California Quick Pick Super Lotto ticket to him. She purchased her ticket on December 25, 1999, at approximately 3:56 PM at the Circle K store at 2210 "D" Street in La Verne, CA. The next day, Farraj, who had been employed for only two weeks at the La Verne Circle K, went to Ruby, her supervisor and Circle K senior assistant store manager, to verify the

amount of her winning ticket. He told her that she got 4 out of 6 numbers for a win of \$88.00 and paid her the money. In January 2000, Farraj learned that Ruby had won the lotto with a ticket purchased at the La Verne Circle K.

Farraj suspected that her ticket had been stolen and contacted the California State Lottery Commission, which agreed with her, but had already paid Ruby the \$8 million, amounting to approximately \$2.56 million after he elected to receive a lump sum award and after taxes. Circle K received \$40,000 as a commission for being the winning store.

At the trial, the jury learned that Ruby had not even been in the La Verne Circle K store when the winning ticket had been purchased. They also learned that an investigation conducted by the La Verne Police Department revealed that the store's surveillance tapes had been erased during the critical 5 minutes when the winning ticket had been purchased. Eventually, Circle K management brought in its own loss prevention investigator, Kirk Luke, to look into the matter, but has yet to conclude its own investigation per Luke's deposition. Farraj, however, was placed on administrative leave and lost her job.

Editor's Note:

Plaintiff Arwa Farraj is represented by Browne Greene and Mark Quigley with the Santa Monica, CA. law firm of Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, LLP (www.gbpwlaw.com); Tel: 310-576-1200. In 1995, the firm successfully tried a similar case involving the theft of a \$12 million lottery ticket stolen by a convenience store employee (Chae vs. Kim).

Defendant Circle K is represented by Pierce O'Donnell with the Los Angeles, CA. law firm of O'Donnell & Shaffer LLP; Tel: 213-532-2000.

Defendant Gurinder Ruby is represented by Sanford Horn of Pasadena, CA.; Tel: 626-795-7295.

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