



# COURT SECURITY NEWS

for the

*United States Court Security Officers Union*

OCTOBER 2019

Vol 9

# USCSO

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## CONTACTORS BY CIRCUIT REPRESENTED BY USCSO

### Special points of interest:

- Circuits USCSO Represents
- Psychological Testing
- Union Representatives
- Law Suits
- USCSO Benefits
- USCSO's Objectives

USCSO represents Districts across the country including Guam & Saipan. Because USCSO has such a large area to cover in terms of contractors we must negotiate and deal with them on a daily basis. USCSO has 40 districts under our banner, representing approximately 2500 CSOs & SSOs. The breakdown is as such. Akal Security the 2nd Circuit (more about them later in the newsletter). Ahtna Security the Northern District of Florida, Centerra Security, the 9th Circuit and will be assuming the 2nd Circuit from Akal Security come January 1st. Paragon has the 4th & 10th Circuits. Walden has the 6th Circuit and as of October 1st 2019 will gain the 7th & 11th Circuits. These 2 circuits were initially held by Akal. As you have read above, come January 1st 2020 Akal Security will be altogether out of the CSOs program. This is after over 20 years of employing CSOs & SSOs across the country, wow, has it been that long? At one time Akal Security held almost every CSO contract nationwide. During this time USCSO's contract negotiations were very streamlined because of this. We could negotiate one contract (CBA) with Akal Security that covered most of country. This was less costly and time consuming for the union than what our current situation is. This year USCSO needed to negotiate a CBA with 6 different companies. We wish Akal well and hope their other branch Coastal Security the same.

Centerra Security will be assuming the contract in the 2nd Circuit come January 1st 2020. As stated by Centerra they will be working off our current CBA that was negotiated with Akal in April, and hiring everyone currently working for Akal. With all of this said, it should make for a much easier transition to Centerra not having to negotiate another CBA this soon. As a reminder all CSOs who have a new contractor must sign new "Dues Check-off Cards." Yes we know the CSOs & SSOs in the 2nd Circuit just signed new cards last December. But every time we have a change in contractors new check-off cards need to be completed.

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## PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING OF CURRENT CSOs

Yes you read it right, Psychologicals for incumbent CSOs. This was the notice USCSO received a few months ago. We thought to ourselves, "what else now?" When USCSO first heard of this we had our attorneys send the company (who will remain anonymous) a letter to confirm that they were indeed going ahead with the testing. We were told that CSOs would be selected randomly throughout each District and would be given two times to pass it. If the CSO failed the second time it would be dealt with on a case by case basis. After we received a response from the company that this was to go forward. USCSO filed an "unfair labor practice charge," or a ULP as it is called. Why the ULP charge? Well when you have a CBA/Union the company must negotiate with the union over the "terms and conditions of employment." A short while after USCSO filed the charge against the company. They withdrew the planned testing. USCSO is not claiming that the charge we filed was the cause the testing to be stopped. Rather that it may have alerted them that this was a very bad and expensive endeavor.

## **SUPPORTING YOUR UNION REPRESENTATIVE.**

This is a topic that needs to be discussed with the membership. What is a union representative? For the purposes of USCSO the Chief union representative in your District is the Unit/District Vice President. The Unit Vice President or UVP as we will call them. Is the union representative who is in charge of the District, files all grievances and appoints Shop Stewards. Shop Stewards may file grievances if directed by the UVP. The UVP is also the union representative that attends all executive board meetings to address the concerns of their districts. They vote on measures that are brought to the floor at board meetings. And they can also bring a motion to the floor to be voted on by the entire board. These might be in the form of a motion to address the concerns of their respective units.

The UVP is also the representative that may bring your concerns directly to company management. Meaning the Site Supervisor or the Contract Manager. This could be for a multitude of issues that the membership wants addressed. This is why you must stand by your "union rep." He or she is the one putting themselves in harms way by speaking up for the membership when no one else wants to. A few UVPs over the years have been targeted by management for sticking up for the CSOs in their District(s). Some have even been terminated for their union activities. This is illegal under the National Labor Relations Act or NLRA. And USCSO has been successful in getting some of UVPs their jobs back. This though is a long a arduous process that no CSO wants to go through.

These are just some of the reasons why you must stand by your UVP or Shop Steward. And help them enforce the contract and let them know that you support the union and their efforts. Lastly your UVP does not draw a regular salary from the union. They are only paid for the time they conduct union business that takes them away from their regular CSO duties. So from time to time thank your union representative for the job that they do and the positive efforts made on behalf of the membership!

## **USCSO BENEFITS**

USCSO is the only union representing CSOs and SSOs that provides the membership with extensive benefits. Why do we do this? Because we know the hazards that go along with being a professional law enforcement officer. At any moment you can be subject to a deadly physical force incident. No this does not seem as dangerous as our past professions but it can be just as deadly. This has been proven by the killings of 3 CSOs and the numerous CSO involved shootings and physical confrontations nationwide. Some of these causing serious injuries to the CSOs involved. Because of this USCSO has developed a plan to represent it's members in good standing. This is if they are involved in a deadly physical force incident, questioned by any law enforcement agency, and a death (benefit) and disability payment if they are killed or "disabled" in a deadly physical force incident and cannot work in the CSOs program. **Provided only by USCSO.**

## **LAW SUITS**

Lawsuits: USCSO Current has 4 law suits pending. Two for the unlawful removal of a CSO's credential by and against the USMS (which were detailed in past newsletters), the third for Akal's failure to settle a dismissal for color deficiency, i.e. medical standards. And 4th, a suit to have CSOs covered under the benefit for Public Safety Officers. This is the monetary benefit all public safety officers are awarded if they die in the line of duty. At the present time CSOs are "NOT" covered by this benefit no matter what you are told during training. This has been an 8 year struggle trying to attain the benefits we deserve as CSOs.

## **USCSO'S MISSION**

**USCSO's objectives are 1) Securing all CSOs & SSOs under one banner of a national CSO union and 2) providing the best possible representation to Court Security Officers nationwide. Nothing short of that is acceptable and your representatives strive daily to make this a reality. Help us by spreading the word about USCSO and encourage CSOs nationwide to join us.**

**UNITED STATES  
COURT SECURITY OFFICERS UNION**



**USCSO**  
**"THE ONE TRUE UNION FOR CSOs"**

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We're on the web!

[WWW.USCSO.ORG](http://WWW.USCSO.ORG)

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**\*This newsletter is only sent electronically to the email of our membership. Please inform your union representation of your current email address or email\*  
[info@uscso.org](mailto:info@uscso.org)**

## Links Section

**COURT SECURITY OFFICER SERVICES - Federal Business Opportunities:** link <http://www.fbo.gov>  
Then scroll down to agencies, select Department of Justice, and select "12 Offices" Scroll down and select "US Marshals Service"

**Company websites:** Akal Security <http://www.akalsecurity.com> - Ahtna Security - <https://www.ahtna.com/>  
Centerra Security -<http://www.centerragroup.com/> Walden Security <http://www.waldensecurity.com>  
Paragon Security—<http://www.parasys.com>

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**Executive Orders:** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/search/?s=executive+orders>

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**Wage Determinations** <https://beta.sam.gov/>

**Go to:** <https://beta.sam.gov/search?index=wd&keywords=&sort=-modifiedDate&date filter index=0&date rad selection=date&wdType=sca&page=1>

**Stan Cooper's remembrance on "Officer Down" Memorial Page.**  
<http://www.odmp.org/officer/20207-special-deputy-marshal-stanley-w-cooper>

**Harry Belluomini remembrance on "Officer Down" Memorial Page.**  
<http://www.odmp.org/officer/358-special-deputy-marshal-harry-a-belluomini>

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