

Press Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:**

Upcoming Bikers' Killer's Court Hearings and FL Candidates' Opinions on Stiffer Penalties

Deland, FL, October 11, 2010 – Although motorcycle related deaths in Florida have decreased over 25% in 2009, we seem to continue to be losing motorcyclists due to the negligence of other drivers. In 2010 alone, we have been monitoring at least 12 cases involving fatal crashes where the motorcyclist was killed by no fault of their own. They were simply out riding and enjoying the beautiful Florida weather when someone in a car or truck killed them because the driver decided not to follow basic Florida driving laws. Of these cases, most don't have any court actions pending. Many of these drivers are getting off with a simple traffic fine for violating the right of way costing them between \$87 and \$159. Cheap price for the life of a motorcyclist! Of the very few cases where criminal charges have been filed:

- On **October 13, 2010**, there will be another court hearing in **Seminole County** regarding the crash that killed "Diamond" Dave Mackish in September 2009. Ruth Perez, the driver responsible for slamming into three vehicles and killing Mackish in the process, has not been to any of the court hearings since her arraignment in February 2010; allegedly the court feels that she lives too far away! As a bonus, when the court mailed her the notice of the upcoming hearing, it was returned "unclaimed"! ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s Brevard County Chapter will be attending the Oct. 13, 2010 hearing; contact the Chapter Secretary Jonell Pope at 321-698-5077 for more information.
- On **October 13, 2010**, there will be a court hearing in **Sumter County** regarding the crash that killed four motorcyclists in March 2010. It was reported by some present at Paul Sermons' arraignment that he seemed to display no remorse for his actions. Sermons is being held on \$202,500 bond, and the State Attorney's Office's Prosecutor has invited all motorcyclists to attend these hearings. ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s Sumter County Chapter will be attending the Oct. 13, 2010 hearing; contact Chapter President Nancy Painter at (352) 457-4677 for additional information.
- On **October 25, 2010**, there will be a mandatory court hearing in **Lee County** regarding the killing of Phillip Baker. Arjuny Jani apparently was not paying attention as he turned in front of Baker's Harley Davidson on September 25, 2010, causing the crash that killed Baker. The Florida Highway Patrol issued Jani a \$159 traffic citation for failure to yield the right of way. Jani is currently free without any additional charges pending. Members from ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s Estero River Chapter will be present at the hearing. Contact Chapter President Tammy Brickley at 239-289-2647 for more information.

In addition to ABATE of Florida, Inc.'s efforts in promoting Motorcycle Safety and Awareness, for the last few years we have been trying to get legislation through that offers stiffer penalty requirements in fatal cases such as these. With the November 2010 elections approaching, we surveyed all candidates for the Florida House of Representatives and Senate, as well as the gubernatorial candidates for their opinions in this and other related matters. Before any motorcyclist votes this November, we ask that they learn their candidates' positions and opinions by reviewing our Candidates' Survey results on our website, www.abateflorida.com.

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