



**State of Arkansas
Bureau of
Legislative Research**

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Kevin Anderson, Assistant Director
for Fiscal Services
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State Agency Litigation Notification Form

Dear Agency Director:

Arkansas Code § 10-3-312 requires that any agency or institution that is not represented by the Attorney General shall notify the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research of pending litigation so that the appropriate legislative committee may “determine the action that may be deemed necessary to protect the interests of the General Assembly and the State of Arkansas in that matter.”

In order to submit a report regarding pending litigation pursuant to Arkansas Code § 10-3-312, please complete the following form for each pending lawsuit, along with a cover letter to the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research, and submit to williamsa@blr.arkansas.gov.

DATE REPORTING:	
Agency:	Arkansas State Crime Laboratory
Phone:	501-683-6161
E-mail:	doralee.chandler@crimelab.arkansas.gov
Contact:	Doralee Chandler
1. STYLE OF THE CASE BEING LITIGATED	
Rico Tavarous Cohn v. City of Fayetteville, et. al.	
2. IDENTITY OF THE TRIBUNAL BEFORE WHICH THE MATTER HAS BEEN FILED (COURT)	
United States District Court of Arkansas, Western District, Western Division,	
3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED	
Plaintiff is seeking a recovery for damages he allegedly sustained while being detained in excess of 1,000 days awaiting trial. The homicide charges filed against him were nolle prossed in 2015. He is asserting a cause of action for violation of his Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment rights; violation of the Arkansas Civil Rights Act, wrongful arrest and false imprisonment; malicious prosecution; abuse of process; tort of outrage; tort of false light; invasion of privacy; defamation; negligent hiring, supervision or retention; general negligence, along with civil and criminal conspiracy.	
3A. OTHER DESCRIPTION INFORMATION	
Docket Number	Case No. 18-5131TLB
Date Filed	July 2, 2018
Defendant	Kermit Channell, Lisa Channell, Phillip Rains, Melissa Myhand
Defendant Attorney	Doralee Chandler, General Counsel at Arkansas State Crime Laboratory
Plaintiff	Rico Tavarous Cohn
Plaintiff Attorney	Tony Pirani with Caddell Reynolds, PA
4. ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	
Kermit Channell is being sued individually and in his capacity as Director of the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory. Lisa Channell, Phillip Rains and Melissa Myhand are all analyst were involved in the analysis of the evidence in the criminal matter and are being sued in individually and in their capacity as analyst at the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory. Melissa Myhand is a former employee of the laboratory.	
4A. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	
Case History	
Relief Sought	Compensatory and Punitive Damages - no monetary figure listed
Current Status	Pending Service of the Complaint

