

HOT OFF THE PRESS **MAJOR DEFENSE VERDICT!**

We are proud to announce a major courtroom victory by RTS partners, Jeffrey L. Ashton, Ramon Vazquez, and Syed M. Qadri, who secured a defense verdict in the Southern District of Florida, on August 22, 2025, in favor of two law enforcement officers who were investigating a report of shots fired in the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida. Following the arrest, the officers were sued under federal law for allegedly violating plaintiff's civil rights. Specifically, an unlawful search or entry of the plaintiff's back yard and excessive use of force. During the arrest, the plaintiff battered one of the law enforcement officers and resisted the arrest.

Plaintiff sought alleged damages in excess of \$5,000,000.00. The officers claimed qualified immunity on these counts, but the trial court found that, in the light most favorable to the plaintiff at the summary judgment stage, there were issues of fact that precluded summary judgment. The lower court's decision was appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, affirmed and remanded to the trial court. Ultimately, the case went before a jury in the Southern District of Florida.

After a full week of trial, in just two short hours of deliberation, the jury returned a defense verdict on all counts in favor of the officers. This outcome is the result of months of dedicated preparation, strategic case development and exceptional courtroom advocacy. It underscores our team's unwavering commitment to protecting our clients' interests and delivering results when it matters most. Congratulations to the entire trial team on this hard-earned and well-deserved victory! We are honored to be of service to the law enforcement community.



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