



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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**NEWS SUMMARY**

**June 30, 2009**

**Chicago Police Officer Indicted for Civil Rights Violation**

Acting United States Attorney Michelle L. Jacobs from the Eastern District of Wisconsin announced today that a federal grand jury in the Northern District of Illinois has indicted Chicago police officer Craig Swistowicz (38) of Chicago for depriving another individual of his civil rights in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 242. Mr. Swistowicz has been a Chicago police officer since 1997 and was assigned to a federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task force on September 13, 2007.

The indictment alleges that, on that date, while acting under color of law, Officer Swistowicz willfully subjected an arrestee to unreasonable force by striking him in violation of his Fourth Amendment Right to a reasonable seizure. Since the indictment alleges that the victim suffered bodily injury, if convicted, Officer Swistowicz faces a fine of not more than \$250,000, imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both, plus a mandatory \$100 special assessment and not more than three years of supervised release to follow any term of incarceration.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois recused itself from the case which was then transferred to the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. The assigned prosecutor is Assistant United States Attorney Mel S. Johnson.

The investigation of this matter has been jointly conducted by investigators from the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Department of Justice, the Independent Police Review Authority of the City of Chicago, and the Office of Professional Responsibility of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely the formal method of charging an individual and does not constitute evidence of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government establishes his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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