

# Roy Summers agrees to \$400,000 settlement

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SAN BERNARDINO — Roy Summers, who spent three years behind bars as a murder and kidnapping suspect before being acquitted by a jury, has won a \$400,000 settlement from seven city police officers who he claimed violated his constitutional rights.

Summers, 45, was the target of

the largest police investigation in the city's history. He was jailed in 1979 for the 1977 murder of his former wife, Beverly Wise, and the kidnapping of two of her children.

Sumers was found not guilty in 1982 amid serious questions about the conduct of two police detectives who Summers contends were determined to convict him.

To this day, the murder case remains unsolved, and the two children have never been found.

"They just wanted to frame a dumb cowboy. I guess the police just wanted recognition. The whole thing is pitiful," Summers said Friday.

Ironically, former San Bernardino police detective Donald Meyer, the chief investigator in the

murder case and the key figure in Summer's civil rights suit, is now in custody in Las Vegas in connection with a bungled casino robbery and shootout there in January.

In his lawsuit, Summers alleged that police detectives, primarily Meyer, lied to witnesses, lied in search warrant affidavits, threatened witnesses, embellished evidence unfavorable to Summers

or disregarded evidence that showed Summers was not the killer and kidnapper.

Charles Nacsin, Summers' attorney, said police supervisors failed to properly supervise the investigation or to correct police errors and wrongdoing that were brought to their attention.

"The supervisors let things run amok. When the case got too far

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Roy Summers  
1982 photo