

# Summers faces payback if suit is won

By RAMON CORONADO

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SAN BERNARDINO — Acquitted murder defendant Roy Summers, who has filed a multi-million-dollar claim against local city and county officials, may have to pay back taxpayers nearly \$300,000 spent for his court-appointed defense.

The judge in whose court the case was tried said he figured there should be some way the taxpayers could take back the public's share of any judgment the former defendant might win.

"We don't intend to follow Mr. Summers all over the world to garnishee what wages he may earn," said Superior Court Judge William Pitt Hyde.

But, he added, the court has learned that "Mr. Summers has commenced legal action against the city and county for damages. And if he were to perfect his legal action with a (successful) lawsuit there should be some form to offset that," Hyde said.

At a hearing Tuesday, Hyde ordered a lien placed on proceeds arising out of a lawsuit Summers may bring against the city and county of San Bernardino.

Paving the way for the civil suit, the 42-year-old Summers has

filed \$10 million in claims against the city and county.

According to claims filed in February, Summers seeks damages for civil rights violations stemming from his arrest, the police investigation and his subsequent trial.

Summers, now living in the

San Francisco Bay Area, was accused in the 1977 north San Bernardino slaying of his former wife and the kidnapping of two of her children, who are still missing.

After spending nearly three years in jail, Summers was ac-

(Please see Suit, B-5)

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