

**Andrea Hanson**

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**From:** Shauna Magee <shauna@ajalawyers.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2026 12:21 PM  
**To:** Elections  
**Subject:** Submission of Tort Claim on Behalf of Client  
**Attachments:** Risdon\_ChelanTortPacket.pdf

APR 03 2026

CHELAN COUNTY  
PROSECUTING ATTY.

Claim No. 2026-4

**WARNING! This email is from an EXTERNAL SOURCE.**

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chelan County Auditor's Office,

Enclosed please find a completed tort claim form submitted on behalf of our client, Lee Risdon, in accordance with the requirements of Washington State. We respectfully request that the claim be duly filed and processed upon receipt. For your records, a hard copy of the form has also been sent via certified mail.

Kindly confirm receipt of this submission at your earliest convenience. Should you require any additional information or documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Shauna Magee | Paralegal & Mitigation Specialist  
ARNOLD JACOBOWITZ & ALVARADO PLLC  
[Shauna@AJLawyers.com](mailto:Shauna@AJLawyers.com)  
720 Seneca St., Ste. 107, No. 393  
Seattle, WA 98121



Arnold Jacobowitz & Alvarado PLLC

NATHAN J. ARNOLD  
720 Seneca St., Ste. 107, No. 393  
Seattle WA 98101  
113 Woodin Avenue, Suite 200  
Chelan, WA 98816 (non-service address)  
(206) 799-4221  
Nathan@AJAlawyers.com

BY MAIL & EMAIL

March 30, 2026

Chelan County Auditor  
Elections Division  
350 Orondo Avenue, Level 3, Suite 306  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Chelan County  
Elections

APR 02 2026

Received  
Wenatchee, WA

Re: Claim for Damages – RCW 4.96  
Claimant: Lee Risdon

Dear Chelan County Auditor:

Please find enclosed a Claim for Damages submitted pursuant to RCW 4.96 on behalf of the above-referenced claimant. The enclosed materials include:

1. Chelan County Claim for Damages Form; and
2. Attachment A – Claim Narrative, incorporated by reference.

This claim arises from acts and omissions of Chelan County employees acting within the scope of employment. The narrative describes a continuing course of conduct resulting in ongoing and cumulative damages.

Please confirm receipt of this claim. All future correspondence regarding this matter should be directed to the undersigned or counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

ARNOLD JACOBOWITZ & ALVARADO PLLC

Nathan J. Arnold, WSBA No. 45356

CC: Mr. Lee Risdon

CHELAN COUNTY CLAIM FOR DAMAGES FORM

CLAIM NO. 2026-04

DATE RECEIVED: 04.02.2026

Pursuant to Chapter 4.96 RCW, this Claim for Damages form is provided solely as an accommodation to the claimant, and the County makes no representations as to its legal sufficiency. Responsibility for complying with all requirements of State law regarding claims rests with the claimant. No County employee is authorized to advise a claimant in completing this form or reviewing its sufficiency. The County expressly disclaims responsibility for any such advice or review.

Chelan County  
Claim for Damages  
Received Date 04.02.2026  
Received By Attorney

Send Original Claim for Damages Form by Regular Mail, Registered Mail, or Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, or Deliver in Person to:

CHELAN COUNTY AUDITOR  
ELECTIONS DIVISION  
350 ORONDO AVENUE, LEVEL 3, SUITE 306  
WENATCHEE, WA 98801  
Business Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

APR 02 2026  
Received  
Wenatchee, WA

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT IN INK. If more space is needed to answer any items, attach additional sheets and specify the item number.

CLAIMANT INFORMATION

- 1) Name: LEE RISDON 09/08/1981  
(Print Full Name) (DOB: mm/dd/yyyy)
- 2) Current Residential Address: 342 27th St NW, East Wenatchee, Washington 98802  
(street, city, state, zip code)
- 3) Mailing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
(street/post office box, city, state, zip code)
- 4) Residential address *on the date this incident occurred* (if different from current address):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(street, city, state, zip code)
- 5) Daytime phone numbers: 509-886-8661  
(Home) (Work) (Cell)
- 6) E-Mail Address: risdonlee@yahoo.com

INCIDENT INFORMATION

- 7) The incidents for which I make claim against Chelan County occurred beginning January 2023 and continued through at least January 2026, on multiple dates and times. See **Attachment A.**
- 8) The incident occurred at the following location:

Chelan County Sheriff's Office facilities and worksites, including but not limited to: Wenatchee Office (WOFC); Cashmere Substation; Jail Annex; County managed systems and personnel record platforms

- 9) Chelan County departments or employee(s) allegedly responsible for damage/injury:

Chelan County Sheriff's Office, including command staff and administration, including but not limited to: Sheriff Mike Morrison, Undersheriff Dan Ozment; Command, administrative and supervisory personnel acting within the scope of employment.

- 10) Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all persons involved in, or witness to, this incident:

Multiple Chelan County employees, supervisors, union representatives, and county officials as documented in personnel records, grievances, arbitration proceedings, and public records requests. **See Attachment A.**

- 11) My injury or damages were caused or happened as follows:

**See Attachment A.**

- 12) Please describe the nature and extent of your injury or damages.

**See Attachment A.**

- 13) I claim damages from Chelan County in the sum of \$

- 14) The itemized amount of damages I claim are attached to this form. **Two estimates of the cost of repairs or a billing invoice must be attached to this claim, together with the name of your insurance agency. Please also include photos of the damages claimed. If your claim relates to a personal injury, please attach copies of all medical reports and billings.**

- 15) If you are claiming injury, are you a Medicare beneficiary?  Yes  No (Check One).

If Yes, please provide your Medicare number:

This claim form must be signed by the Claimant, a person holding a written power of attorney from the Claimant, by the attorney in fact for the Claimant, by an attorney admitted to practice in Washington State on the Claimant's behalf, or by a court-approved guardian or guardian ad litem on behalf of the Claimant.

***I declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.***

DATED this  day of , 20

s/Nathan J. Arnold

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Signature of Claimant

Arnold Jacobowitz & Alvarado PLLC, Edmonds, Snohomish County, Washington

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Place of Signing (residential address, city, and county)

## **ATTACHMENT A – NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF CLAIM**

**Claimant:** Sergeant Lee Risdon

**Agency:** Chelan County Sheriff's Office

**Claim Period:** January 2022 – January 2026

### **I. Overview**

This claim arises from a continuous pattern of retaliation, harassment, hostile work environment, disparate treatment, and administrative misconduct directed at me, Sergeant Lee Risdon, following (1) my prior supervisory actions involving now-Sheriff Mike Morrison, (2) my public support of former Sheriff Brian Burnett during the 2022 election cycle, and (3) my long-standing leadership status within the agency.

The retaliatory conduct described in this attachment reflects a sustained campaign to undermine my credibility, discipline me without cause, remove me from leadership positions, damage my reputation, and ultimately force me out of law enforcement. The misconduct includes improper reopening of closed investigations, secret placement and release of inaccurate disciplinary records, targeted inquiries into my leadership, public ostracism, medically unsafe scheduling, disparate administrative leave treatment, and admitted personal animus from CCSO command staff.

### **II. State Agency or Employees Involved**

- Chelan County Sheriff's Office (CCSO)
- Sheriff Mike Morrison
- Undersheriff Dan Ozment
- Chief Ryan Moody
- Chief Seth Buhler
- Former Chief Jason Reinfeld (historical context)
- Various CCSO administrators, command staff, and employees acting under color of law

### **III. Description of the Incidents**

Beginning in early 2022 and continuing through January 2026, I experienced an ongoing pattern of retaliatory conduct directed at me on the basis of longstanding animosity held by Sheriff Morrison and his command staff, as well as my public support for former Sheriff Brian Burnett.

#### **A. Background of Retaliation – Supervisory History With Morrison**

Before becoming Sheriff, Deputy Morrison expressed persistent resentment toward me stemming from his belief that he was wronged during prior promotional processes and supervisory interactions. When I supervised him, he required repeated corrective actions and coaching. Morrison later admitted to me that he questioned how and why I was promoted, noting that administration previously "hated me" and "wanted to fire me."

I served on the CCSO Guild Board with Morrison. He repeatedly excluded me from official communications, removed me from email chains, and withheld Zoom links for

meetings, requiring administration to manually add me back. These early patterns of exclusion demonstrate long-standing animus.

During the 2022 election cycle, I publicly supported Sheriff Brian Burnett, wearing campaign attire and posting public criticism of Morrison's campaign messaging. My support was visible on social media and campaign materials.

#### **B. Retaliation Following Morrison Taking Office (January 2023)**

Immediately after assuming office, Morrison and CCSO administration initiated retaliatory actions specifically targeted at me. These actions included:

- Attempts to reopen previously investigated and closed incidents from years earlier.
- Attempts to "dig up dirt" on me and another Sergeant, acknowledged directly by Undersheriff Ozment.
- Inappropriate discussions with deputies I supervise about my leadership, perceived as attempts to solicit negative statements.
- Undocumented, uncommunicated "sustained findings" placed in my personnel file without notice, contrary to contract and the Deputy Bill of Rights.
- Repeated failures to acknowledge me during professional interactions, demonstrating intentional ostracism.

### **IV. Incident Chronology**

#### **A. Pre-Election Conduct and Supervisory History (2022)**

Retaliation traces back to my supervisory interactions with Morrison. During a meeting on January 12, 2022, Morrison questioned how I had been promoted, stating that former administration once "hated" me and "wanted to fire" me. His behavior toward me during this period included:

- Excluding me from Guild-related emails and meetings
- Withholding Zoom links for Guild business
- Forcing administration to re-add me to communications he intentionally removed me from
- Demonstrating open resentment toward my promotions to Corporal and later Sergeant

These incidents reveal longstanding animus that would later inform his actions as Sheriff.

#### **B. 2022 Election Cycle – Protected Political Speech**

During the 2022 election, I publicly supported former Sheriff Brian Burnett, including:

- Appearing in Burnett campaign photos and social media posts
- Wearing "Burnett for Sheriff" apparel
- Publicly criticizing Morrison's campaign messaging and calling out half-truths

This support constituted protected political speech. Morrison's subsequent retaliation directly coincided with his taking office.

#### **C. January–February 2023 – Retaliation Immediately Upon Taking Office**

After assuming office, Morrison and his administrative team began revisiting previously resolved matters involving me and other sergeants.

This included:

- Attempts to re-open closed investigations
- Renewed focus on the resolved 2022 youth baseball incident
- Conversations with Chief Moody indicating administration had inexplicably learned of old allegations
- Chief Moody acknowledging “rumors” that administration was “digging up dirt,” while denying involvement

D. June 2023 – Hostile Supervisors Meeting and Union Complaint

At a June 7, 2023 supervisor meeting, Undersheriff Ozment:

- Yelled at me and other supervisors
- Displayed aggressive body language
- Rolled his eyes and dismissed concerns raised by multiple sergeants

A formal Teamsters complaint was filed documenting his conduct. Days later, Ozment privately apologized, stating he “had no right to talk to [me] like that,” indicating awareness of wrongdoing.

E. Leadership Training (July 2023) – Explicit Admissions of Bias and Targeting

During July 12–13, 2023 leadership training with Dr. Dave Mather, Ozment made several alarming statements, including:

- “I do not like you or McCue.”
- Praise for me “pained” him
- He had sought negative feedback from my deputies but was “disappointed”
- He “takes satisfaction” in saying things designed to anger others

F. Fall 2023 – Repeated Ostracism and Public Avoidance

Beginning in fall 2023, both Morrison and Ozment repeatedly ignored or avoided me during work-related public events. These included:

- Oktoberfest (October 27, 2023): Both administrators refused to acknowledge me despite standing within feet of me
- December 20, 2023 retirement event: Again no acknowledgment despite direct proximity
- Youth baseball Nationals photos (2024): Morrison ignored me in extended interaction observed by community members

G. December 2023 – Removal as Honor Guard Commander

After more than fifteen years of service and leadership, I was removed as Honor Guard Commander without explanation, replaced by a known Morrison supporter. Four members resigned in response. This action removed me from a major professional identity and was clearly retaliatory.

#### H. 2024 – Administrative Manipulation

At a September 4, 2024 supervisors meeting, when Sgt. Lake questioned why administration refused to discuss the yearly schedule, Ozment responded:

- “Good. Then our plan worked.”

This statement confirmed intentional disruption for the purpose of creating instability among staff.

#### I. 2025 – Secret Discipline, Improper Investigations, and Media Release

In March 2025, I discovered through a PDR that CCSO had secretly placed a “sustained” complaint in my personnel file. I had never been notified, in violation of contract and investigative procedure. Union review found:

- Administration could not produce the underlying documents
- The “investigation” had not been conducted properly or at all
- Available video evidence contradicted the allegations

Despite agreeing to pause the release, CCSO released the false disciplinary findings to the Wenatchee World.

#### J. Step 2 Grievance (September 9, 2025)

During a public Step 2 grievance hearing:

- Audio from my in-car camera disproved CCSO’s allegations
- Commissioners and media observed the discrepancies
- Undersheriff Ozment publicly apologized
- The discipline was rescinded

#### K. Disparate Administrative Leave and Criminal Investigation (August 2025 – January 2026)

In August 2025, while on vacation, I learned secondhand that I had been placed on administrative leave. This contrasted sharply with the handling of a favored deputy involved in racist and sexist conduct. Former Civil Deputy Kim Oglesbee later confirmed:

- She overheard Morrison, Ozment, and Moody discussing demoting me
- They expressed intent to remove me from law enforcement

A six-week criminal investigation followed regarding tying my boat to an unmarked dock; this was ultimately found to involve no wrongdoing.

#### L. Retaliatory Scheduling Against Medical Advice (December 2025)

After medical professionals directed a gradual, daytime return to duty due to work-induced stress and anxiety, CCSO administration assigned me to a 19:00–05:00 schedule. This:

- Contradicted direct medical guidance
- Was not justified by “operational needs” despite HR claiming otherwise
- Caused severe anxiety, chest pain, and near hospitalization

No support was offered during my reintegration.

#### M. Second Administrative Leave (January 7, 2026)

On January 7, 2026, I was again placed on administrative leave with minimal explanation. As with prior investigations, I anticipate the outcome will show no wrongdoing.

**V. Damages – To Be Determined**

- **Emotional / Psychological:** Severe anxiety, stress-induced health symptoms. Loss of sleep, panic, and work-related anxiety; Impacts to emotional wellbeing spanning multiple years
- **Professional:** Loss of leadership roles; Damage to professional reputation; Impeded promotional and leadership opportunities; Retaliatory scheduling causing health risk
- **Economic:** Lost opportunities for specialty pay; Legal, medical, and therapeutic expenses
- **Administrative** leave and related financial impacts
- **Reputational:** Public release of inaccurate discipline through PDR; Internal defamation by command staff

An exact amount will be provided following further documentation and evaluation.

**VI. Supporting Documents**

The following evidence exists and will be provided upon request:

- Emails and internal CCSO correspondence
- Witness notes and supervisor statements
- Public Disclosure Request records
- Union grievance materials
- Audio and video recordings
- Personnel file documents
- Medical and occupational health records

**VII. Conclusion**

From January 2022 through January 2026, CCSO administration, led by Sheriff Morrison and Undersheriff Ozment, engaged in a prolonged, targeted campaign of retaliation and harassment against me. Their actions created a hostile work environment, violated procedural and contractual protections, caused psychological and professional harm, and damaged my reputation.

I respectfully submit this Tort Claim and reserve the right to amend and supplement as necessary.