



Exclusive: Michael Jackson's Former Business Partner Discusses Verdict

July 20, 2006

There will be another court battle for Michael Jackson and former business partner Marc Schaffel, but both sides have claimed victory for now.

Last week jurors in Santa Monica, Calif., awarded Schaffel \$900,000 for commissions, unpaid loans and expenses the former Jackson associate said "The King of Pop" owed Schaffel for the work he did to produce videos intended to rehabilitate Jackson's image following the airing of the documentary "Living With Michael Jackson." The documentary led to child molestation charges against Jackson that led to a criminal trial in which Jackson was acquitted last year.

Schaffel's award was far less than the \$1.4 million his attorney had requested. The jury also awarded Jackson \$200,000 in his cross-complaint in which he alleged that Schaffel had defrauded him.

Schaffel's attorney, Howard King, said he and his client were happy with the jury's award.

"Again, Marc was probably owed more than that," King told "Good Morning America" in an exclusive interview. "The problem is, in Michael's world, you don't have receipts. You have handshakes and winks and nods. And because of that, there was a chance we were going to get nothing. But the jury believed a lot of those winks and nods, and awarded \$900,000, and we're grateful for that."

Things Looking Up for 'King of Pop'?

Jackson's representatives said things are starting to look up for the singer. Santa Monica County Superior Court Judge Jacqueline Connor, who oversaw the case, plans to hold a separate accounting phase of the trial to look further at Jackson's claims that Schaffel owes him money. That could lead to an adjustment in the awards.

"Michael is no longer an easy target for people with frivolous claims who believe that suing Michael Jackson is a ticket to fame and fortune," said Jackson's lawyer, Thomas Mundell.

Mundell said Schaffel took \$400,000 from Jackson's account to buy his California home, and also wrote himself a \$65,000 check he called a producer's fee.

Howard King said he does not expect a court to find that Schaffel owes Jackson more money.

"That's a dream come true [for Jackson], but it's not going to come true," King said. "That may work in Neverland but not in Santa Monica."

Yet for all these bitter money disputes, Schaffel spoke positively about Jackson.

"I have to say, with his own children, he absolutely shows to be 100 percent a wonderful father," he said. "He has full-time care of the children, spends a lot of time with his children."

Schaffel also said Jackson is "pretty much like any other person."

"Michael has good times; he gets angry. Michael screams, yells, swears," he said.

ABC News' Heather Nauert and Bill Ritter reported this story for "Good Morning America."

PROMOTED STORIES



1 Dirty Little Secret To Eliminate 15 Years Of Mortgage Payments *(LowerMyBills)*



This Elderly Couple Took A Photo 4 Times A Year In The Same Spot. Try Not To Cry. The Last One Is A Tearjerker *(LolBoom)*

MORE FROM ABC NEWS



California Water District OKs Tom Selleck's Settlement Offer



Why Justin Bieber Posted a Bikini Pic of Kelly Ripa

- A popular new site reveals the truth about anyone's past. Simply enter name and state to see what is available online. What will you learn today? *(Instant Checkmate)*
- 25 Biggest Decorating Mistakes to Avoid *(HGTV)*
- Funniest PhotoBombs Ever *(CyberBreeze)*
- Never Forget The Horrible Crime These Celebs Committed *(BuzzLamp)*
- Kim Kardashian's Short Skirt Caused A Major Scene *(Zimbio)*

Recommended by Outbrain

- ▶ Michael Jackson in More Legal Trouble
- ▶ Michael Jackson Trial Shocker
- ▶ Michael Jackson in More Legal Trouble

More Video »

RELATED TOPICS: Michael Jackson, Good Morning America, Bill Ritter

OFFERS YOU MIGHT LIKE

ADS BY ADBLAD

Trade with Confidence.

Get up to \$600 and trade commission-free for 60 days.

[More >>](#)

your city In Disbelief

Americans can't believe that new site is legal. Search your name before it gets banned!

[More >>](#)

\$10K Ring in \$20 Candle?

This jeweler hides thousands of rings inside scented candles.

[More >>](#)

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

0 Comments

ABC News

Login

Recommend

Share

Sort by Best



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON ABC NEWS

Magnitude 4.1 Earthquake Shakes San Francisco Bay Area 16 comments

Police Probing Death in LA Find 1,200 Guns, 2 Tons Ammo 129 comments

Chattanooga Shooter Mohammad Abdulazez Followed Al ... 337 comments

Gun-Firing Drone Subject of Federal Investigation 105 comments

AROUND THE WEB

Steer Clear of these 5 Massively Unreliable Cars Motor Guides

Young Millionaires Flock to Wealthfront TechCrunch

15 Breeds to Avoid When Choosing A Dog Dog Notebook

Do You Know What Your Weight Loss Type Is (And What It ... RealDose Nutrition

WHAT'S THIS?

Subscribe

Add Disqus to your site

Privacy

DISQUS

HOME > U.S. > US

HOT RIGHT NOW



Watch Woman Breaking Window to Rescue Toddler Locked in Hot...



Chattanooga Shooter Researched Religious Justification For...



Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert to Divorce



Sandra Bland's Death Probe 'Like a Murder Investigation'



Inside Miranda Lambert and Blake Shelton's Relationship

ADVERTISEMENT

AdChoices Legal

Renters insurance protects the stuff of your dreams.

REQUEST A QUOTE >

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE Insure carefully, dream fearlessly.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...



Sandler Says He Wasn't Trying to



Photo of Black Official Helping Man



50 Cent Responds to Bankruptcy News



Coconut Oil: How It Will Change Your

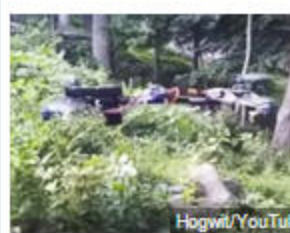
Recommended by Outbrain

PHOTO GALLERIES



View: This Week in Pictures International

SEE IT, SHARE IT



Gun-Firing Drone Subject of Federal Investigation



Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert's Divorce Finalized



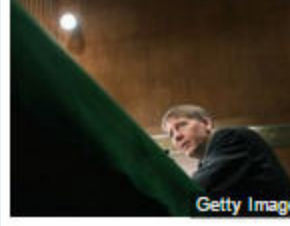
'Million Dollar Baby' Star Is Renting Out Her NYC Home



Watch Woman Breaking Window to Rescue Toddler Locked in Hot Car



Special Olympics World Games: What You Should Know



How 4-Year-Old Government Agency You've Never Heard of Can Help You

Ohio Gov. Kasich Is 16th Notable Entry Into GOP Race

sponsored offers

Ever Looked Yourself Up?

Controversial New Site Exposes Millions of Personal Records. Search Your Name Now! Instant Checkmate

New Rule in Minnesota

New Rule in Minnesota Leaves Drivers Furious and Shocked Solid Quote

NASA's Dire Warning

The End Is Near - NASA Issues Dire Warning... BlackoutUSA

ADVERTISEMENT

