

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Who do you think is in the wrong?

Re: Who do you think is in the wrong?

Author: : barbless

Date: : 2013/4/30 11:48:21

URL:

JasonS, making those distinctions is actually a very real part of the job. There's often some amount of discretion up to the law enforcement officer on the scene- especially in cases like this. Not everyone gets a ticket after a stop for a traffic violation, for instance.

For that matter, criminal arrests are typically subject to prosecutorial discretion. The officer only makes the initial arrest, they don't bring the case to court. That's up to the DA.

And after that, it's up to the judge at the arraignment whether to continue with the case, or, as they say, throw it out of court.

That said, it's undeniably within the scope of a WCO's duty to cite anyone who's committed an offense.

The guy just sounds like a rookie to me. Someone who has yet to catch someone who's *really* wrong, like a poacher.

I don't think "all the guys with badges and guns" are "on a power trip." I've seen some remarkable demonstrations of courtesy, patience and diplomacy by police officers, who sometimes have to "negotiate" one or more disputes of some sort or another on every work shift. They've helped me out of a few jams in my time. And I have some idea of what they often confront.

But rookies are rookies. And probably the worst encounter I've ever had with a law enforcement officer was a few years ago in California, with, yes, a young kid rookie Fish&Game cop. (He wanted to bring dogs to sniff the outside of my car after I refused to allow him to search it, having failed to trick me into unlocking and opening the door by inviting me to retrieve a jacket so I wouldn't have to stand out in the cold. After an hour with no dog showing up, he released me from my roadside detention. Was the kid on a power trip? Absolutely.)