

Sanctioned attorney: 'I did it for justice'

By Scott Smith
Record Staff Writer

STOCKTON — A judge on Thursday ordered a Stockton attorney to pay \$250 for violating court rules during a contentious trial that ended this week with his client being acquitted of domestic violence charges and freed from jail.

"If it costs \$250 to support freedom and justice, I'll pay that any day," Gregory Davenport said after the sanctioning hearing.

Davenport apologized to the judge for having broken the rule but said that as a defense attorney, he is required to represent his client zealously.

"I did it for the Constitution," Davenport said. "I did it for justice."

Davenport's client, Wesley Coose, had been jailed for six weeks after being accused of pointing a shotgun at his wife and threatening to kill her. A jury cleared him of five misdemeanor counts. Davenport represented Coose for free because the defendant had no money.

"He did a great job," Coose said outside the courtroom.

The violation occurred when Davenport introduced evidence in front of jurors and didn't first share it with the opposing attorney, San Joaquin County Deputy District Attorney Maria Ghobadi.



Gregory Davenport

Fined \$250 for showing restraining orders to jurors.

ATTORNEY: Won't be reported to state

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The evidence was restraining orders Coose's family took out against friends of Wesley Coose's wife after feeling threatened.

Ghobadi said the orders did not exist, so to counter her claims, Davenport retrieved them from courthouse records

during a lunch break.

San Joaquin County Superior Court Judge Linda Lofthus said in the hearing that she respected Davenport but that he had violated court rules.

"I totally respect the heat of battle and am in awe of the Constitution, as well," Lofthus told Davenport. "I think those rules

are good rules."

Attorneys fined more than \$1,000 are reported to the State Bar of California, something Lofthus said she did not feel was necessary in this instance.

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