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## Jury awards \$16 million in civil case against former Jeff. Co. deputies

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After six hours of deliberation, a Federal jury has awarded more than \$16 million to a Port Arthur man who was beaten by two former Jefferson County deputies as he was being booked into the Jefferson County jail.

Both Rodney Cole and Johnny Vickery Jr are ordered to pay Joseph Christopher Roberts \$8 million in punitive damages and \$25 thousand in compensatory damages.

Cole and Vickery were found guilty of official oppression in 2008.

12 News HD got a copy of the surveillance video which has been key evidence in the case. The video shows Cole punching Roberts three times in the face. The tape then shows Vickery shoving Roberts into the prison wall before rubbing bloody papers on his head. Both Roberts and Vickery took the stand and testified about the contents of this video.

Jefferson County Sheriff Mitch Woods told 12 News HD the video does not show appropriate behavior or protocol of his employees inside the Jefferson County jail.

"You hate it. You absolutely hate it when these things happen. You can take all measures to ensure that they don't - it's a tough business and sometimes in this business one of the hardest things for these officers and corrections officers to do is maintain that self control" said Jefferson County Sheriff Mitch Woods.

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