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## Casey Anthony sued for \$100,000 by volunteer group and scuba diver for time they wasted searching 'alligator infested water' for missing daughter



*It's not over: Casey Anthony, pictured at her acquittal in 2011, is being chased by Equusearch for the time that 4,200 volunteers wasted searching for her daughter's body*

By Paul Thompson In Tampa, Florida

A search and rescue organisation today vowed to claw back \$100,000 from Casey Anthony for the time they wasted searching for her missing daughter.

Texas based Equusearch are named as one of the creditors America's 'most hated' mom

owes in her recent bankruptcy filing.

They are listed among more than 70 organisations and individuals who are owed money by Anthony who has debts of close to \$1m.

Equusearch founder Tim Miller has vowed to continue with his claim for reimbursement against her.

He said his search and rescue organisation racked up bills of \$119,000 to send volunteers to Orlando, Florida, to help in the search for Anthony's missing daughter Caylee.

A total of 4,200 volunteers descended on Orlando in the summer of 2008 to help scour woodland and swamp areas for the missing two-year-old

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after Anthony finally reported her missing.

The toddler's badly decomposed body was eventually found in December 2008 leading to a first degree murder charge.

Anthony was acquitted of killing her daughter in July 2011 after a sensational trial that divided America.

A jury believed Anthony's version of events that Caylee had accidentally drowned and she had panicked and buried the girl by her father George.

Equusearch is suing Anthony because her acquittal proved she knew all along her daughter was dead and allowed hundreds of volunteers to waste their time looking for her.

'We did a massive search for little Caylee,' said Miller who runs Equusearch from offices in Houston, Texas.

'We had over 4,200 volunteers come in from all over the country. Equusearch itself spent a little over \$119,000 on that search,' he told **kvue.com**.

Equusearch founder Miller said he is taking legal advice over his next step but warned: 'It's not over for Casey.'

Scuba diver David Baldali is among the creditors and claims he is owed more than \$10,000.

Badali was recruited to search for Caylee in November 2008.

He headed a three strong dive team that spent hours in the water searching the Little Econ River in east Orange County.

Badali filed a lawsuit against Anthony in the hope of recovering his money after she claimed to have known all along that her daughter was dead and not missing.

Badali said he relied on false information and expended significant time, costs and resources on the search.

In his lawsuit he also noted that Anthony's lies caused him to search in 'alligator infested waters.'

Legal papers show that had he known of the true nature of Caylee's disappearance, he wouldn't have agreed to volunteer his diving services.

Anthony was convicted of lying to police and sentenced to time served which resulted in her being freed from jail in 10 days.

Outrage against her acquittal led Anthony to be called the most 'hated mom in America' and she has been in hiding ever since.

Plans for her to cash in on her notoriety vanished as she became the target of death threats.

In her bankruptcy petition Anthony's creditors include her lawyer Jose Baez who is owed \$500,000 in legal fees.

Dozens of forensic experts who helped the defence team are also listed, including famed pathologist **Dr Henry Lee**.

A media consultant from New York and even a firm of lawyers suing her for defamation are also named.

Legal experts said bankruptcy filings are routinely used as a legal tactic employed by attorneys trying to delay trials of lawsuits filed in state courts.

Anthony is facing a defamation suit brought by

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Zenaida Gonzalez, a woman with the same name that Anthony claimed had taken her daughter.

It means Anthony must be residing in Florida and covers towns such as Fort Myers, Tampa and Jacksonville.

The meter reader who found Caylee's body, Roy Cronk, is also a creditor who is suing Anthony for defamation.

The bankruptcy, filed by a law firm in St Petersburg, Florida, is also seen as a way for Anthony to get rid of her substantial debts before signing a lucrative TV or book deal.

She was offered \$1m for the first interview after her acquittal but public revulsion towards her meant no network TV station would agree to air the chat.

NBC were threatened with an advertisers boycott after it was reported they were in negotiations to sign a deal with her.

The bankruptcy filing happened on the same day an appellate court in Florida threw out two of her four convictions.

Court records show that the bankruptcy petition was filed in the middle district of Florida.