



REPORT to the PEOPLE

Highlights from 2015-2016



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

JACKIE LACEY, District Attorney

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On the Cover. "Embodied," a sculpture by artist Alison Saar, is located on the east side of the Hall of Justice. Read more about the sculpture on page 16.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.



A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY JACKIE LACEY

For the past four years it has been my great honor to serve as Los Angeles County District Attorney.

This is an extraordinary office filled with hard-working, dedicated professionals – prosecutors, investigators and support staff members.

They perform the people's work with passion and a commitment to improve the lives of the residents of Los Angeles County. The executives, managers and supervisors are forward-thinking innovators who are determined to reinforce our reputation as the nation's premier local prosecutorial office.

The Report to the People 2015-2016 is a chronicle of the commitment and leadership the employees of this office have demonstrated.

The report highlights many of the important cases we have filed and prosecuted during the past two years.

One of the office's greatest achievements was the successful prosecution of Lonnie David Franklin Jr. – who was convicted of the notorious "Grim Sleeper" murders of nine women and a teenage girl spanning from 1985 to 2007. He was sentenced to death for his crimes.

Another important courtroom success involved a doctor who was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison after she was convicted of murder for overprescribing drugs to three young men who overdosed and died. We hope the sentence sends an important message that such conduct will not be tolerated.

Prosecutors in our office reached a \$4 million settlement with Southern California Gas Co. in connection with the massive gas release north of Porter Ranch that upended thousands of lives. The settlement required the company to adopt safety measures beyond what is required by federal and state laws.

The office successfully sued and settled with ride-sharing companies Uber and Lyft to ensure that they take steps to improve customer safety.

This report details the numerous ways that the office worked to advance the criminal justice system. Most notably, we led a multifaceted initiative to develop a comprehensive mental health diversion program. The effort's key goals were to help people living with mental illness stay out of the criminal justice system and improve the safety of first responders. I'm confident this initiative will have an enduring impact.

We started new programs to help protect people and businesses from cybercrime, initiated efforts to protect children from abuse and showed leadership in the fight against human sex trafficking.

In addition, I made efforts to reinforce our office's commitment to transparency and ethical conduct. I created the office's first Conviction Review Unit to examine claims of actual innocence based on newly discovered evidence. This unit helps stress the office's commitment to the fair and ethical pursuit of justice.

Internally, I created the position of Professional Responsibility Advisor to help provide clarity regarding ethics and professional conduct in the office.

Finally, it is essential for me to recraft the office's mission statement. (See opposite page.) My goal was to have a statement that was so clear and concise that the public and our employees immediately understood the office's high expectations.

The mission statement expresses the goals that our employees should strive to fulfill every day, in every action they take.

I hope you agree that this report shows that we are fulfilling our mission.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MANAGEMENT STAFF



IMPROVING
the
JUSTICE SYSTEM



Above: Sandy Jo MacArthur, mental health training coordinator for the District Attorney's Office, leads a "Crisis Intervention for First Responders" session.
Opposite page: Alice Allen of the National Alliance on Mental Illness discusses caring for a family member diagnosed with mental illness.

Mental Health Diversion, Training, Treatment

District Attorney Jackie Lacey led a groundbreaking effort to develop a comprehensive mental health diversion program designed to help people living with mental illness stay out of the criminal justice system and improve the safety of first responders.

In 2015, District Attorney Lacey presented the Criminal Justice Mental Health Advisory Board's report "A Blueprint for Change," (available at <http://bit.ly/2mN6l1g>) to the Board of Supervisors. The 41-page report provided an inventory of existing resources and set priorities that included expanding training for law enforcement personnel and adding community-based beds to house and treat individuals with mental illness, particularly those with criminal records.

The advisory board was a collaborative effort among various governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations that District Attorney Lacey founded and chaired.

"This is our first comprehensive attempt to fundamentally change the way we treat people with mental illness in Los Angeles County when they come into contact with law enforcement personnel," she said. "When implemented, these recommendations will provide treatment options to safely divert nonviolent offenders with mental illness from jail."

An estimated one in four inmates in Los Angeles County jails were living with mental illness.

The advisory board's top priority was training law enforcement personnel on how to more effectively interact with individuals in a mental health crisis. (See story below.)

The advisory board's report also recommended an increase in the number of co-deployed law enforcement teams, comprised of a mental health professional and a law enforcement officer, that responded to 911 calls and service requests for people who may have mental illness.

In addition, the report identified different types of treatment and housing that could help offenders with mental illness at all points in the criminal justice system, from their initial contact with law enforcement to re-entry after incarceration.

"A Blueprint for Change" was a catalyst for other changes in the county.

Based on the advisory board's findings, the Board of Supervisors created the county Office of Diversion and Reentry with the mission of sending low-risk offenders with serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders into treatment, rather than jail, while preserving public safety.

In that same action, the Board of Supervisors allocated roughly \$120 million with 40 percent going toward housing and 50 percent for the cost of expanding existing successful or promising diversion and anti-recidivism programs.

Even before the advisory board issued its report, it helped create the Misdemeanor

Incompetent to Stand Trial Community-Based Restoration Program.

That program addressed offenders who were charged with misdemeanors but were unable to assist in their defense because of mental illness. These inmates could be jailed for months until they were declared competent or until the maximum sentences for their crimes passed.

The program provided mental health treatment outside of the county jail in an appropriate recuperative setting. Roughly 250 misdemeanor defendants deemed incompetent to stand trial were released directly into community treatment in the program's first year.

To further the office's efforts in improving the treatment of people with mental illness, District Attorney Lacey created the position of Mental Health Liaison to collaborate with other agencies, such as the Office of Diversion and Reentry, the Department of Mental Health, the Sheriff's Department and the courts, in developing appropriate mental health diversion programs and policies.

In 2015, District Attorney Lacey received the Sam Cochran Criminal Justice Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The award recognized work in the field of criminal justice that has advanced the fair and humane treatment of people with mental illness.

"A Blueprint for Change" received the Best Practice Award from the state Council on Mentally Ill Offenders in 2016.

Training Effort Improves Safety



Training law enforcement officers on how to safely de-escalate incidents involving people experiencing a mental health crisis was a key goal of the District Attorney's Office.

The free training targeted first responders from 45 local police agencies throughout Los Angeles County. By the end of 2016, more than 650 patrol officers and dispatchers were trained on tactics and tools needed to successfully interact with individuals living with mental illness.

The class used role-playing to demonstrate de-escalation techniques, instructed officers about different symptoms of mental illness and introduced them to individuals and family members, who described living with mental illness.



District Attorney Jackie Lacey at a news conference announcing steps the office has taken to address sex trafficking crimes. With her are David Demerjian (left), director of the Bureau of Specialized Prosecutions, Jane Creighton, coordinator of the Human Trafficking Unit, Assistant District Attorney Joseph Esposito and Carol Burke, head deputy of the Sex Crimes Division.

More Human Sex Traffickers Prosecuted

The District Attorney's Office prosecuted sex trafficking defendants in hopes of sending the message that the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children would not be tolerated in Los Angeles County.

With California's international border and the size of its economy – estimated to be the sixth largest in the world – the state was considered among the top destinations in the United States for human trafficking. Los Angeles County gangs increasingly were found to be behind the proliferation of human sex trafficking.

"The District Attorney's Office is dedicated to building on the successes we've had in combating this crime that has exploited children as young as 12," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. "We have worked to make sure that victims of sex trafficking are treated as victims – not child prostitutes or criminals."

The Human Sex Trafficking Section prosecuted criminals who exploited these victims. The section was comprised of specially trained prosecutors dedicated to assisting victims of sex trafficking.

The unit streamlined the prosecution of human trafficking cases, bringing together specialized deputy district attorneys from the Sex Crimes, Organized Crime, Hardcore Gang and Juvenile divisions and the Victim Impact Program. The section also included representatives from the Bureau of Victim Services and the Bureau of Investigation.

With heightened sensitivity to these crimes and the approval of Proposition 35, which eliminated barriers to prosecuting human traffickers and toughened penalties, the caseload increased. In 2015, there were 75 new cases – a *five-fold* increase since 2012. The next year, 68 cases involving 88 defendants were filed.

Besides prosecuting trafficking cases, the section also was responsible for training criminal justice professionals on how to properly investigate and file these cases. The office's Criminal Justice Institute hosted a training on the subject for 120 prosecutors and law enforcement personnel in 2016.

Conviction Review Unit Evaluates Innocence Claims

Stressing that prosecutors have a mandate to ensure the fair and ethical pursuit of justice, District Attorney Jackie Lacey started the office's first Conviction Review Unit in 2015.

The unit was created to review claims of actual innocence based on newly discovered evidence. These claims originated from inmates, attorneys or innocence projects. In its first year, the unit received more than 900 requests for review.

In announcing the creation of the unit, District Attorney Lacey noted that the office, which was the largest local prosecutorial agency in the nation, files more than 71,000 felony cases annually. The vast majority of the convictions in those cases were upheld on appeal.

However, despite prosecutors' best efforts, the pursuit of justice is not perfect.

"In a few instances, new evidence is discovered and, on rare occasions, mistakes are found," District Attorney Lacey said. "Whenever we receive new credible information that may exonerate a person, the responsibility is on us, as prosecutors, to re-examine the facts and, if appropriate, to seek to vacate a wrongful conviction."

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved funding that allowed the office to assign three experienced deputy district attorneys, a senior investigator and a paralegal to staff the unit, which was part of the office's Post-Conviction Litigation and Discovery Division.

Under the Conviction Review Unit, requests for review were required to be submitted in writing.

If a claim met the office's initial criteria, it moved to a second level of review. If the claim passed the second level review, a formal investigation would be opened. A deputy district attorney and investigator were assigned the case. They reviewed trial transcripts and the evidence and interviewed witnesses.

The findings of the review would be made to a special committee of managers in the District Attorney's Office. If it was decided that the office lost faith in the conviction, the office would seek to have the conviction vacated.



Lt. William Frayeh (left) and Sgt. Justin Feffer, of the Bureau of Investigation, recognize Capt. Naser Salem Al-Reqabi, a security official from the United Arab Emirates at the District Attorney's 2015 High Tech Fraud Symposium.

Partnership Brings Trainers to the World

The District Attorney's Office entered into a partnership with the U.S. State Department in 2015 to provide training by its criminal justice experts and nationally respected investigators to prosecutors and law enforcement personnel from around the globe.

"This agreement provides another avenue for members of my office to share their wealth of knowledge and experience with others," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said.

Under the terms of the agreement – as part of federal anti-crime efforts overseas – Los Angeles County prosecutors and investigators would draw on their unique expertise and abilities to provide training to foreign governments.

The District Attorney's Office has a distinguished history of training prosecutors and law enforcement officials nationally.

By expanding the reach of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's training programs beyond national borders, the office sought to advance law enforcement initiatives in other parts of the world while also developing a better understanding of transnational threats to public safety.

Delegations from around the globe have visited the office to learn best practices. Pakistani and Chinese attorneys learned about public corruption prosecutions from the Public Integrity Division. Delegates from the Asian country of Kyrgyzstan received training from the Justice System Integrity Division. Prosecutors from the African nation of Uganda have convened with the Hardcore Gang Division.

Additionally, experts from the Bureau of Investigation and the Cyber Crime Division traveled to Europe, Asia and the United Arab Emirates to provide instruction on cyber investigations. Another group of prosecutors, including District Attorney Jackie Lacey, lectured in Seoul, South Korea, in 2016 on the admissibility of digital evidence.

Cyber Teams Assist County, Businesses

With the threat of cybercrime growing in Los Angeles County, the District Attorney's Office created the Community Cyber Investigation Response Team (Community CIRT) in 2016.

The Community CIRT targeted cybercrimes committed against businesses in the county. The team investigated and prosecuted cases and educated local businesses on ways to protect themselves from becoming victims. The team trained more than 500 members of the business community in cybercrime prevention.

The team also placed a high priority on recovering restitution when the crimes result in financial losses. More than \$2 million was recovered for businesses in 2016. More than 20 investigations were opened in Community CIRT's first year.

"The nature of cybercrime changes so fast that our office must be ever-vigilant to protect the public," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. "We have some of the best minds in the country addressing this issue. We'll do everything we can to stay ahead of these high-tech thieves."

Recognizing the global nature of cybercrime, Community CIRT established and strengthened working relationships with international, federal, state and numerous local agencies.

The team's efforts support a key goal of District Attorney Lacey's administration: stopping identity theft.

Community CIRT built upon the successes of office's renamed Cyber Crime Division and a separate County CIRT that addressed attacks on county resources.

The division prosecuted defendants for child pornography, illegal computer intrusion and a wide variety of identity theft. Cyber Crime prosecutors also established new partnerships with businesses and the banking industry to combat fraud.

The County CIRT was created in 2013 to protect against attacks on Los Angeles County-managed information systems.

The team of District Attorney investigators helped apprehend defendants who hacked into the county's information technology infrastructure.

County CIRT investigators uncovered a strike on county

computers from the United Arab Emirates. The investigation led to the apprehension of suspects who allegedly possessed fraudulently obtained information on more than 5 million email accounts.

Besides investigating and prosecuting cases, the team provided cybersecurity training and technical guidance to county departments.

Through 2016, the team investigated 85 cases, which involved hundreds of thousands of potential victims and resulted in restitution totaling nearly \$4 million.

The investigators' efforts to strengthen the county's defense of its computer network helped the District Attorney's Office garner the Creative Application of Technology Award from the county's Quality and Productivity Commission.



Senior Investigator Andy Le dismantles computer hardware as part of a cyber investigation.

New Resources Brought to Child Abuse Cases

In an effort to better protect children and prosecute those who abuse them, the District Attorney's Office formed two new specialized prosecution teams in 2016.

The Complex Child Abuse Section and the Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (E-SCARS) Unit were created within the Family Violence Division.

Complex Child Abuse Section

The Complex Child Abuse Section was launched to handle all cases involving abusive head trauma and medically complex child deaths. The cases handled included instances in which abused children died because of inflicted head trauma or other internal injuries.

These cases often had no eyewitnesses who could explain how the injuries occurred and relied on medical expertise and opinion. Conflicting opinions on the cause of death, with medical examiners citing abuse and defense experts contending the death was accidental, were common in these cases.

The section was composed of a team of prosecutors with specialized knowledge, expertise and significant trial experience to contend with defense arguments.

"Prosecutors for this section receive specialized training regarding abusive head trauma and child abuse and utilize a team approach, sharing their medical and legal knowledge to maximize the potential for positive

outcomes in their cases," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said.

In addition, these specially trained prosecutors were tasked with providing instruction to law enforcement officers and working directly with investigators on cases.

E-SCARS Unit

The E-SCARS Unit was created to increase the office's ability to audit suspected child abuse reports. This allowed the staff to identify gaps in reporting to help ensure greater resources and attention were given to children who may be at risk of abuse or possibly death.

The District Attorney's Office led the way in implementing E-SCARS several years ago. It was designed to be a faster and more efficient method of sharing suspected child abuse and neglect reports among agencies that investigate the allegations. E-SCARS was the nation's first web-based system for instant and secure sharing of these time-sensitive reports.

Until 2015, a single paralegal audited about 6,000 suspected child abuse reports each year. The new E-SCARS Unit was comprised of four paralegals who had the ability to audit significantly more reports.

The increase in staffing also made it possible to identify victims who might not be receiving adequate attention from the Department of Children and Family Services or law enforcement.

Professional Responsibility Advisor Position Created

Moving to bolster ethical conduct among prosecutors, District Attorney Jackie Lacey appointed the office's first Professional Responsibility Advisor in 2016.

"Uncompromising ethical conduct has always been, and will continue to be, understood as the cornerstone of our obligation to represent the people," District Attorney Lacey said.

The advisor was assigned to develop a comprehensive, consistent and proactive approach to providing a precise understanding and practice of ethics and professional conduct in the office.

The advisor also was assigned to provide instruction on competency and the elimination of bias. Regarding competency, the advisor was to provide training in the recognition of stress and the use of stress management tools.

In addition, the advisor was assigned to assist in responding to inquiry letters from the State Bar of California. Self-reporting requirements also were addressed by the advisor.

"The Professional Responsibility Advisor will bring a practical, holistic approach to ensure we live up to the pledge in our office mission statement," District Attorney Lacey said.

Victim Restitution, Ransomware Bills Among DA-Backed Measures Signed into Law

The District Attorney's Office sponsored numerous legislative proposals to advance the criminal justice system that were signed into law in 2015 and 2016.

"The new legislation our office sponsored will protect the public while also improving the legal process," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. "Our office will continue to strive for stiffer laws for emerging and violent crimes and advocate for victims' rights."

Signed by Gov. Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown Jr. in 2016, Senate Bill 1054 ensured that restitution was properly collected from county jail inmates. California's Constitution guaranteed crime victims the right to seek restitution from criminals who have harmed them.

The District Attorney's Office also sponsored Senate Bill 1137 that made it a crime to infect computers or networks with ransomware, a type of malware that restricted access unless a user pays a ransom to the malware operators to lift the restriction. Previous laws did not adequately address ransomware.

Senate Bill 307, which was signed into law in 2015, clarified that sentencing judges were authorized to impose protective orders when a defendant was sentenced to mandatory supervision for domestic violence or serious sex offenses. Without this clarification, these crime victims were at risk.

Senate Bill 507 gave prosecutors and defense lawyers access to sexually violent predators' state hospital records. Without these records, judges lacked information they needed to decide whether it was safe to release a violent sex offender from a state hospital.

A separate bill created statutory deadlines for the Department of State Hospitals to provide filing materials to prosecutors in sexually violent predator cases.

Other bills sponsored by the District Attorney's Office included:

- Assembly Bill 797, the "Right to Rescue" bill, provided criminal and civil immunity for people who rescued children and animals left in vehicles.
- Senate Bill 420 divided California's prostitution law into separate sections so accurate statistics about the numbers of commercial sex workers and those who solicited them could be obtained.
- Senate Bill 651 corrected a discrepancy in California law and made relatives of victims eligible for restitution in juvenile delinquency cases.
- Assembly Bill 1854 restored funding for costs incurred by prosecutorial agencies that litigate bail forfeiture motions.

New Leadership Team for Bureau of Investigation

New leadership took over the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation in 2015 and worked to bolster the office's investigative expertise and enhance its service to prosecutors, other law enforcement agencies and crime victims.

John Neu, a former chief of the Torrance Police Department, was sworn in as chief of the Bureau of Investigation on Nov. 16, 2015. Kris Carter, a veteran of the District Attorney's Office, became deputy chief.

The Bureau of Investigation was the county's fourth largest law enforcement agency with nearly 300 sworn officers.

Besides assisting prosecutors in the presentation of cases, district attorney investigators led complex criminal investigations and took part in numerous multi-jurisdictional task forces in Southern California.

As chief, Neu set out to build morale in the bureau and established core values for investigators: professionalism, integrity, courage and compassion.

The Bureau of Investigation helped fulfill office-wide goals by strengthening its commitment to investigating cybercrimes and white-collar fraud.

The Community Cyber Investigation Response Team was created in 2016 to investigate cybercrimes targeting businesses and financial institutions in Los Angeles County.

Neu also initiated an aggressive training regimen for investigators.

As a result, the Bureau of Investigation began providing more peer-to-peer training led by the office's many subject-matter experts in areas such as public corruption and fraud.



Bureau of Investigation Captains Dirk Roth and Stephen Oppler, Deputy Chief Kris Carter, Chief John Neu and Captains Tori Jordan and William Brown.

Meet Laura



The District Attorney's Office hired its first four-legged investigator in 2016: Laura, a Belgian Malinois.

The scent dog was certified by the National Police Canine Association and teamed with Senior Investigator Wendy Lofton to work on the Los Angeles Interagency Metropolitan Police Apprehension Crime Task Force (L.A. IMPACT).

The team underwent 400 hours of training with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit. Laura was certified to detect marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and opium.

In their first year together, Laura and Lofton took part in dozens of searches with the task force.

When drugs were found, Laura was rewarded with playtime with a tennis ball.

New Hiring, Training for DDAs Improve Service, Professionalism

The District Attorney's Office instituted a new training regimen for newly hired prosecutors in 2016 that combined coursework with hands-on courtroom experience.

As part of the regimen the new hires spent two weeks with the Training Division team learning lessons that focused on fundamental court skills and how to properly conduct preliminary hearings.

The prosecutors then spent three months prosecuting preliminary hearings at courthouses throughout the county.

At the end of the three months, the group returned to the office's Training Center for three weeks of interactive study on prosecuting misdemeanor trials.

After that they were sent back to court for practical trial experience before returning for more classwork.

They later were sent to assignments in branch and area offices.

"This new training program will allow our new prosecutors to gain practical experience and receive a steady stream of feedback on how to develop their skills so they have a successful and productive career," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said.

In addition to the new training regimen, the hiring process for new prosecutors was updated. Applicants underwent three levels of scrutiny and interviews before they were hired.

In 2016, a new examination was unveiled for the Deputy District Attorney I position – the first major update in more than 30 years. Candidates were interviewed by a team of three examiners.

A performance component was added to the exam. Candidates were given a set of facts about a hypothetical criminal case, and asked to provide an opening statement.

"We made changes in hiring and training to ensure that we have the most professional, the most well-trained and the most committed prosecutors we possibly can have in all the cases we handle," District Attorney Lacey said.

District Attorney Lacey hired 175 new deputy district attorneys since she took office in 2012. At the end of 2016, there were roughly 980 prosecutors on staff.

Fifty-five percent of the new hires brought in under District Attorney Lacey were women, roughly 24 percent were Asian-American, 12.5 percent were Hispanic/Latino and 9 percent were African-American.



District Attorney Jackie Lacey administers the oath of office to new deputy district attorneys in 2016.



Above: A team from the office's Bureau of Administrative Services led the largest move in the history of the District Attorney's Office.
Below: Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Sheriff Jim McDonnell and District Attorney Jackie Lacey look on as a new time capsule is installed in the cornerstone of the Hall of Justice.

Hall of Justice Move Completed

The District Attorney's Office completed the biggest move in its history as more than 700 employees – about one-third of the office – moved to the renovated Hall of Justice in downtown Los Angeles.

The move marked the return of the District Attorney's Office to the architectural gem that served as its headquarters from 1926, when the building opened, until the 1970s when office executives moved to the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

The office's Bureau of Administrative Services managed the move, which was completed on June 14, 2015. Six floors of the Hall of Justice housed District Attorney employees. The Sheriff's Department occupied the other floors.

The building's plaza was adorned with a new sculpture that was installed in 2015. The 12-foot-tall figure, titled "Embodied," was created by Los Angeles artist Alison Saar. Saar said the sculpture, depicting a woman holding a book of law in her right hand and a dove taking flight from her raised left hand, symbolized the weighing and balancing of freedom and peace.

More than 200 words related to "justice" – in English, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog and other languages – were imprinted on the figure's dress.

"This iconic symbol will remind visitors that the Hall of Justice is a place where prosecutors are dedicated to seeking justice for all," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said.

SIGNIFICANT CASES

Time Capsule Ceremony



‘Grim Sleeper’ Sentenced to Death

The man known as the “Grim Sleeper,” who killed nine young women and a teenage girl in South Los Angeles over the course of three decades, was sentenced to death on Aug. 10, 2016.

Lonnie David Franklin Jr. was convicted of 10 counts of murder with the special circumstance of multiple murders and one count of attempted murder.

Deputy District Attorney Beth Silverman told jurors that all of the victims were connected “to the same serial killer” through DNA evidence, firearms evidence or a combination of the two.

“Science in 2010 finally caught up with the defendant for the crimes he committed since the 1980s,” she said.

The “Grim Sleeper” slayings were the nation’s first to be solved using a specialized familial search of the state’s criminal offender DNA database.

The search pointed to DNA from Franklin’s son, who was convicted of a felony weapons charge in 2009.

Los Angeles police put Lonnie David Franklin Jr. under surveillance and surreptitiously obtained his DNA from saliva on pizza crust he discarded. The DNA matched the victims’ crime scene samples. He was charged in July 2010.

Eight of Franklin’s victims were shot to death with a .25-caliber firearm. Of the eight, four were

shot and strangled. Two victims were strangled to death: the youngest, 15-year-old Princess Berthomieux and the oldest, 35-year-old Valerie McCorvey.

The first killing occurred in August 1985 and the last was in January 2007. The victims were discovered in alleys covered with debris, thrown in trash bins or dumped in bushes.

Franklin’s last victim, Janecia Peters, 25, was discovered shot to death on Jan. 1, 2007. The .25-caliber automatic firearm used to kill her was discovered in Franklin’s home after police executed search warrants.

His victims also included: Debra Jackson, 29; Henrietta Wright, 34; Barbara Ware, 23; Bernita Sparks, 26; Mary Lowe, 26; Lachrica Jefferson, 22, and; Alicia Alexander, 18.

When asking jurors to recommend a death sentence, prosecutors called additional witnesses, including a woman from Germany who testified that she was kidnapped and raped by Franklin and two other men while they were stationed in Germany serving in the United States Army in 1974.

Prosecutors also introduced evidence tying Franklin to four additional murders of women between 1984 and 2006.

Franklin was dubbed the “Grim Sleeper” because of an apparent gap in slayings between 1988 and 2002.

Doctor Sentenced to 30 Years In Overdose Deaths

A Rowland Heights doctor was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison in connection with the overdose deaths of three patients.

The conviction of Hsiu Ying “Lisa” Tseng on Oct. 30, 2015, marked the first time in the United States a doctor was found guilty of murder for overprescribing drugs on a theory of implied malice.

“This verdict sends a strong message to individuals in the medical community who put patients at risk for their own financial gain,” District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. “In this case, the doctor stole the lives of three young people in her misguided effort to get rich quick.”

“This is the most severe penalty we have ever received for a doctor who illegally overprescribed drugs to patients,” District Attorney Lacey added.

Tseng was convicted of second-degree murder in the deaths of Vu Nguyen, 28, of Lake Forest; Steven Ogle, 24, of Palm Desert; and Joseph Rovero, 21, an Arizona State University student from San Ramon.

The three died in 2009 after they were prescribed copious amounts of drugs. Tseng was sentenced on Feb. 5, 2016.

Tseng was licensed to practice in 1997 and

opened a storefront medical office in Rowland Heights in 2005. Investigators found that nine of her patients had died in less than three years.

In that three-year period, Tseng took in more than \$5 million from her clinic and continued dispensing potent and addictive drugs unabated.

Deputy District Attorney John Niedermann told jurors in closing arguments that Tseng sometimes kept no medical records of visits or patient prescriptions.

In many instances, she faked medical records when authorities began investigating, he said.

He also said there were numerous warnings for Tseng to recognize that her prescription practices were dangerous.

Niedermann added that Tseng prescribed patients powerful narcotics without asking follow-up questions, even after some told her about their drug addictions – including undercover agents who posed as patients.

Tseng surrendered her medical license in 2012.

Jurors also found her guilty of 19 counts of illegally prescribing controlled substances and one count of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud.



The Prosecutors

Beth Silverman (left) of the Major Crimes Division and Marguerite Rizzo of the Forensic Science Section



The Prosecutors

Grace Rai (left), John Niedermann and Keith Koyano of the Major Narcotics Division

Southern California Gas Fined, Forced to Adopt Safety Measures

The District Attorney's Office reached a \$4 million settlement with Southern California Gas Co. that required the utility to pay the maximum fine allowed by law and adopt safety measures beyond what was required by federal and state laws.

The settlement stemmed from criminal charges filed in light of the massive gas leak at the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility north of Porter Ranch. The leak, which started on Oct. 23, 2015, led to the displacement of an estimated 12,000 residents for several months and the relocation of two schools. Nearly 100,000 metric tons of methane were released before the leak was plugged on Feb. 11, 2016.

On Sept. 13, 2016, the company pleaded no contest to one misdemeanor count of failing to immediately report the leak to the California Office of Emergency Services and to the local Certified Unified Program Agency. As part of the plea, the company was ordered to pay \$307,500, which includes the maximum fine of \$75,000 plus a penalty assessment of \$232,500.

"This agreement ensures that Southern California Gas Co. is held accountable for its criminal actions for failing to immediately report the leak," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said.

"Our office has helped bring the Aliso Canyon facility into compliance, keeping in mind that public safety is of the utmost importance," she said. "Going forward the protections put in place by this agreement create a safer facility for its employees, the environment and the surrounding communities."

As part of the agreement, the company was required to install and maintain a new, infrared methane monitoring system at the Aliso Canyon site that would cost between \$1.2 million and \$1.5 million. Real-time pressure monitors also were required to be placed at each gas well. The settlement required an outside company be retained to test and certify that both systems were working properly.

Under the agreement, six full-time employees had to be hired to operate and maintain the new leak detection systems 24 hours a day. The total cost for the monitoring system was expected to be \$2.25 million.

The company also was required to pay \$246,672.88 for the cost of the investigation and emergency response by the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Health and Hazardous Materials Division.

The Prosecutors



Front row: Yael Massry, deputy-in-charge of the Environmental Law Section (left), Head Deputy Stanley Williams and Assistant Head Deputy Hoon Chun of the Consumer Protection Division. Second row: Daniel Wright, Christopher Curtis and Jessie McGrath of the Consumer Protection Division.

Bumble Bee Held Accountable in Worker Death

In a record settlement, Bumble Bee Foods LLC agreed to pay \$6 million in connection with the death of an employee who became trapped inside an industrial oven at the company's Santa Fe Springs plant.

The settlement was the largest known payout in a California criminal prosecution of workplace safety violations involving a single victim.

On Oct. 11, 2012, Bumble Bee worker Jose Melena, 62, of Wilmington, entered a 35-foot-long cylindrical oven as part of his job duties and became trapped in the back of the oven.

The company agreed to pay \$3 million to replace all of its outdated tuna ovens with new ovens that were automated and would not require workers to set foot inside.

In addition, Bumble Bee committed to pay \$1.5 million in restitution to the Melena family.

The company also agreed to pay \$750,000 to Los Angeles County for the investigation and prosecution of Occupational Safety and Health Administration criminal cases and for improving enforcement of workplace safety and compliance rules.

As part of the settlement, the company also agreed to

pay \$750,000 in combined fines, penalties and court costs.

Under the terms of the agreement, Bumble Bee was required to implement enhanced safety measures such as installing video cameras at their ovens to ensure safety compliance; providing training to managers and workers about safety rules; and conducting safety audits of their plant equipment.

The settlement was announced during an Aug. 12, 2015, hearing.

Bumble Bee's Director of Plant Operations Angel Rodriguez of Riverside pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of an OSHA violation causing death. He was ordered to perform 320 hours of community service and pay more than \$12,000 in fines and penalty assessments.

Co-defendant Saul Florez of Whittier, Bumble Bee's former safety manager, pleaded guilty to a felony count of willfully violating safety rules and proximately causing the victim's death.

Florez was sentenced to three years of formal probation and ordered to complete 30 days of community labor. He also was ordered to pay more than \$20,000 in fines and penalty assessments.

Uber, Lyft Agree to Settlements

A \$25 million settlement was reached between the Los Angeles County and San Francisco County District Attorneys' Offices and Uber Technologies Inc. over allegations that the ridesharing company misled the public about driver background checks.

Under the April 7, 2016, settlement, Uber agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$10 million to the two counties with an additional \$15 million due if the company failed to comply with the terms of the settlement over the next two years.

The agreement followed a settlement reached by another ridesharing company, Lyft, Inc., which agreed to pay civil penalties of \$500,000.

Both companies were under permanent injunctions prohibiting them from making untrue or misleading statements about their background checks.

The injunction also required Uber to ensure that its passenger fare calculation app meets state accuracy standards.

In addition, Uber must receive approval from airports to have its drivers drop off and pick up passengers. The company also can no longer charge an airport "toll" unless the entire fee is paid to the airport.

Uber and Lyft admitted no wrongdoing in the settlements.

Social Workers Charged in Connection with Boy's Death

Four social workers were charged with child abuse and falsifying public records in the 2013 death of 8-year-old Gabriel Fernandez of Palmdale.

"Social workers play a vital role in society. We entrust them to protect our children from harm," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said in announcing the charges on April 7, 2016. "When their negligence is so great as to become criminal, young lives are put at risk."

Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) social workers Stefanie Rodriguez and Patricia Clement and their respective supervisors Kevin Bom and Gregory Merritt were each charged with one felony count of child abuse and one felony count of falsifying public records. If convicted, each defendant faced up to 10 years in state prison.

Prosecutors alleged that Rodriguez, Clement, Bom and Merritt had a legal duty to take action if Gabriel could not safely remain in his home. This legal duty extended from the date that each charged social worker was assigned to the DCFS case to the date that Gabriel was declared dead, prosecutors said.

Gabriel died on May 24, 2013, from injuries resulting from repetitive blunt force trauma that was administered over an extended period of time.

Rodriguez and Clement were accused of falsifying reports that should have documented signs of Gabriel's escalating physical abuse and the family's lapsed participation in DCFS efforts to provide help to maintain the family.

Prosecutors alleged Bom and Merritt knew or should have known that they were approving false reports that conflicted with the evidence of Gabriel's

deteriorating physical well-being as contained in the child's case file, allowing him to remain at home until his death.

"By minimizing the significance of the physical, mental and emotional injuries that Gabriel suffered, these social workers allowed a vulnerable boy to remain at home and continue to be abused," District Attorney Lacey said.

"We believe these social workers were criminally negligent and performed their legal duties with willful disregard for Gabriel's well-being," she said. "They should be held responsible for their actions."

Gabriel's mother, Pearl Sinthia Fernandez, and her boyfriend, Isauro Aguirre, were indicted on capital murder charges in 2014 in connection with the boy's death.

The Prosecutors



Ana Maria Lopez (left) of the Public Integrity Division and Pallavi Dhawan of the Family Violence Division

Nigerian National Charged in Cyberattack

A lengthy investigation by the District Attorney's Cyber Investigation Response Team led to criminal charges being filed against a Nigerian national who allegedly waged a wide-scale email phishing attack on Los Angeles County employees.

Austin Kelvin Onaghinor was charged in a felony complaint for arrest warrant with nine counts, including unauthorized computer access and identity theft. The case, which was announced on Dec. 16, 2016, also included an excessive-taking allegation of more than \$500,000.

The defendant was accused of launching an email phishing attack in May 2016 that targeted Los Angeles County employees from 15 departments. Phishing scams trick recipients into providing personal identifying information such as usernames and passwords as a way to access a victim's account.

Of 1,000 county email users who received the defendant's message, 108 county employee email accounts were affected.

The Cyber Investigation Response Team responded to the security breach, identified the source of the intrusion and thwarted his attack. The defendant faced a maximum possible sentence of 13 years in state prison if convicted.

"My office has devoted significant resources to developing cutting-edge expertise and relationships that allow us to hold transnational cybercriminals accountable," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said.

The Prosecutor



Donn Hoffman of the Cyber Crime Division

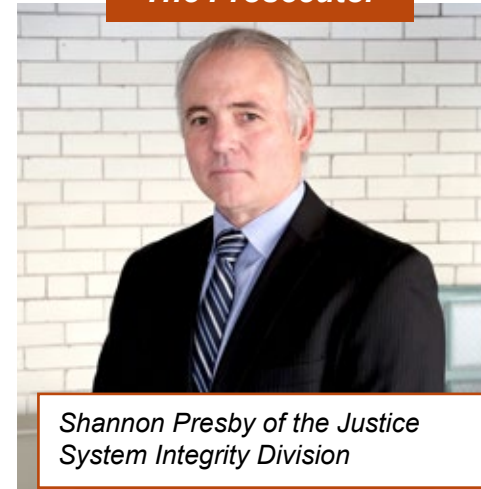
Ex-LAPD Officer Convicted of On-Duty Assault

A jury convicted a former Los Angeles police officer who was recorded on video striking a woman while she was being arrested.

Mary O'Callaghan was convicted of one count of assault under the color of authority on June 23, 2015, and later was sentenced to 36 months in prison.

"I am pleased that the jury agreed with our assessment of the evidence in this case," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. "The verdict proves the criminal justice system works."

The Prosecutor



Shannon Presby of the Justice System Integrity Division

The charges stemmed from a July 2012 incident in which officers were dispatched to the residence of 35-year-old Alesia Thomas to investigate possible child abandonment.

After interviewing Thomas, officers placed her under arrest. O'Callaghan arrived on the scene to assist the arresting officers with placing Thomas, who was handcuffed and had on leg restraints, in a patrol car.

A police cruiser's video camera captured O'Callaghan kicking Thomas in the stomach and groin area and pushing her in the throat.

While in the patrol car, Thomas lost consciousness and paramedics were called. She was transported to a hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Real Estate Heir Charged with Murder

New York real estate heir Robert Durst was charged with the 2000 shooting death of his friend in her Benedict Canyon home.

Durst was charged on March 16, 2015, with the murder of Susan Berman on or about Dec. 23, 2000, the day before her body was discovered.

He was charged with one felony count of first-degree murder with the special circumstances of murder of a witness and lying in wait, and gun-use allegations.

Durst waived extradition to Los Angeles during a court appearance in New Orleans, where he was arrested.

He pleaded not guilty on Nov. 7, 2016. The capital murder charge made Durst eligible for the death penalty.

The Prosecutors



David Yaroslavsky (left), Ethan Milius, John Lewin, Eugene Miyata, Robert Britton and Habib Balian of the Major Crimes Division

Sexually Violent Predator Returned to Custody

Serial rapist Christopher Evans Hubbard was taken into custody after he allegedly violated several terms of his conditional release, including failing five polygraph tests.

On Aug. 9, 2016, he was removed from the Lake Los Angeles residence where he had lived since his release from a state hospital two years earlier. District Attorney Jackie Lacey strongly opposed Hubbard's release, saying he continued to pose a threat to public safety.

Hubbard, who had more than 50 known female victims between 1971 and 1982, was the first person committed under the state's Sexually Violent Predator Law, which authorized civil commitments under certain conditions for serial rapists who fulfilled their prison sentences.

He was designated a sexually violent predator in 1996 and was in the custody of the Department of State Hospitals until his 2014 release.

Known as the "Pillowcase Rapist," Hubbard attacked women throughout California, entering their homes and raping them after placing a pillowcase over their heads. He was convicted and imprisoned several times but raped again each time after he was released.

The Prosecutor



Karen Thorp

SERVING
the
COMMUNITY

Fraud Alerts Safeguard Consumers, Seniors

To educate the public about common consumer fraud schemes, the District Attorney's Office began publishing Fraud Alerts in 2015.

Posted on the office's website (<http://da.lacounty.gov>) on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, the Fraud Alerts informed consumers about scams involving political contributions, gift cards, immigration consultants and identity theft.

At least once a month, the alerts focused on scams that target seniors such as Medicare rip-offs, counterfeit drug scams and reverse mortgages.

Videos featuring deputy district attorneys from the Bureau of Fraud and Corruption Prosecutions were added to some of the Fraud Alerts. In the videos, prosecutors spelled out how the frauds operate.

"One of the most efficient ways to combat fraud is to educate the public to recognize common schemes and avoid becoming victims," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. "Fraud Alerts help curb crime and give people the tools they need to protect themselves from cybercrooks and

other swindlers."

The office distributed the alerts through the news media and on Twitter, using the hashtag #FraudFriday, which made the message easily searchable in the social media platform. Fraud Alerts also were featured in the office's newsletter.

The Fraud Alerts dovetailed into the office's Financial Elder Abuse Prevention Campaign, a multimedia effort to keep seniors and their families informed about ongoing and new scams that single out older adults.

As part of the campaign, the District Attorney's Office worked with the Los Angeles County Public Library and the departments of Consumer and Business Affairs, Community and Senior Services and Public Health to distribute informational pamphlets on senior scams. More than 13,500 English/Spanish pamphlets were provided to these agencies for distribution.

The office's website also served as a clearinghouse of information on consumer scams and prevention tips (<http://da.lacounty.gov/seniors>).

Don't Miss An Alert

The image shows three overlapping pamphlets from the 'Fraud Alerts' series. The top-left pamphlet is titled 'Obituary Scam' and features a 'Helpful Tip' section with bullet points: 'Put only necessary details in the obituary', 'Hang up on unsolicited calls', and 'Do not accept unknown items from messengers'. The top-middle pamphlet is titled 'Prescription Drug Scam' and includes a 'Helpful Tip' section with bullet points: 'Discuss any online prescription plans with your doctor', 'Be wary of any site that offers a prescription for simply filling out a questionnaire', 'Only buy prescriptions online from a pharmacy approved by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy', and 'If you send money and don't receive anything in return, call local law enforcement'. The top-right pamphlet is titled 'Online Romance Scam' and includes a 'Helpful Tip' section with bullet points: 'If someone seems too good to be true on how they portray themselves, they probably are', 'Never give out your Social Security number or bank account information', and 'Never send money to anyone you meet online'. Each pamphlet has a 'Fraud Alert' logo in the top right corner. At the bottom of the pamphlets, there is a footer with the name 'Jackie Lacey, District Attorney' and the Los Angeles County seal.

An archive of Fraud Alerts may be found at <http://da.lacounty.gov/community/fraud-alerts>.

Animal Safety Campaign Warns about Hot Cars; New Legislation Allows 'Right to Rescue'

District Attorney Jackie Lacey launched a countywide campaign to remind pet owners that leaving an animal in a hot car was not only cruel but illegal.

"It is never alright to leave a pet alone in a hot car – not when a window is left cracked open, not when the car is parked in the shade and not when you think you'll be in the store for just a few minutes," District Attorney Lacey said. "Leaving a dog alone in a hot car is a crime."

She unveiled the campaign on July 23, 2015, at a Westfield shopping center in Sherman Oaks. At the event, a "Dogs Die in Hot Cars!" poster was premiered. The poster was displayed at several Westfield shopping centers in Southern California.

District Attorney Lacey was joined by Nomo, a 13-year-old white Labrador and "spokesdog" for the pet safety campaign.

As part of the campaign, the District Attorney's Office trained more than 180 Westfield employees on how to respond when pets were found in locked vehicles inside mall parking lots.

Under state law, first-time offenders could face a fine of \$100. Repeat offenders could be fined \$500 and sentenced to up to six months in jail. If an animal was harmed or died, owners could be charged with felony animal cruelty and, if convicted, be sentenced to up to three years in prison.

In 2016, the District Attorney's Office sponsored Assembly Bill 797, also known as the "Right to Rescue" bill, which was signed into law. The bill provided criminal and civil immunity for people who rescue children and animals left unattended in vehicles.

The law, which was co-sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States, allowed a person to use forcible entry if there was no other reasonable way to remove the child or the animal and law enforcement was notified before trying to get the animal out.

The "Dogs Die in Hot Cars!" poster in English and Spanish and a fact sheet were available through the District Attorney's website at <http://da.lacounty.gov/media/media-resources>.



At a Sherman Oaks news conference, District Attorney Jackie Lacey announces a countywide campaign to inform pet owners that it is illegal to leave an animal in a hot car.

New Website, Social Media Provide Expanded Information Access

The District Attorney's Office took new steps to make it easier for the public to access important documents and information about the office.

On March 30, 2015, the office launched its new website – the first update in 12 years – <http://da.lacounty.gov>.

The website enhanced communication with the public by providing easy-to-use access to news releases on cases, helpful information and links for crime victims and consumer tips to avoid common financial scams. It allowed users to locate branch and area offices and order informational pamphlets about domestic violence prevention and child abuse reporting laws.

The website, which was visited by more than 1,000 users a day, was designed to host videos. Users were able to increase text size, opt for text-only pages and translate content into more than 50 languages.

In June 2016, the office broke new ground by regularly posting on the website memos to law enforcement agencies about officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths. The memos were for instances in which it was determined that officers acted within the law.

“We began posting these letters on our website to show that the District Attorney's Office conducts an independent and thorough review of the evidence in each of these cases,” District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. “This is just one of many efforts we have made to share information with the public and be as transparent as possible under the law.”

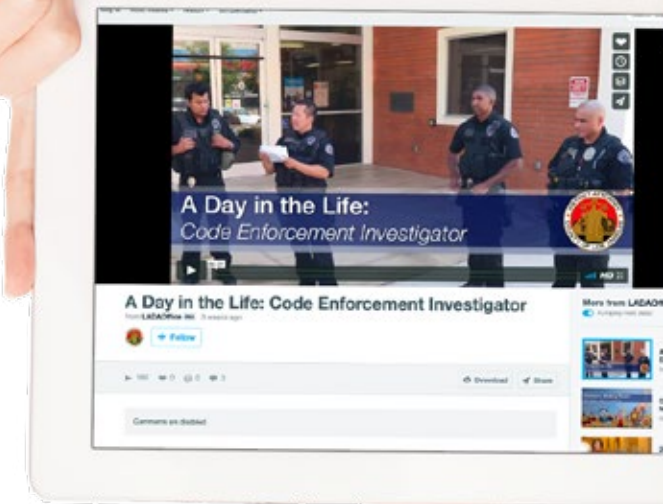
The office also established its first social media profile on Twitter – [@LADAOffice](https://twitter.com/LADAOffice). The Twitter account allowed the office to directly reach individuals interested in criminal justice-related news. More than 6,300 users regularly tracked the office using Twitter. The office posted more than 2,300 times about news and events.

In April 2016, the office began publishing its digital monthly newsletter. The newsletter gave readers a glimpse into the inner workings of deputy district attorneys, investigators and support staff members who comprise the nation's largest local prosecutors' office.

Each edition featured a personal message from District Attorney Lacey, highlighted significant cases and offered tips on how to avoid falling prey to common financial scams.

The newsletter drew 3,000 subscribers. Past issues were accessible on the District Attorney's Office website at <http://da.lacounty.gov/contact/newsletter>.

On Vimeo, videos offering a behind-the-scenes look at various LADA programs and specialized divisions. See for yourself at <http://vimeo.com/ladaoffice>.



The website was relaunched in 2015 and has been visited by nearly 480,000 users looking for information about the office. Visit us at <http://da.lacounty.gov>.

Enhanced Communication

The newsletter drew 3,000 subscribers. Past issues are accessible on the District Attorney's Office website at <http://da.lacounty.gov/contact/newsletter>. Receive exclusive LADA content in your inbox by subscribing.



On Twitter, more than 6,300 users tracked 2,300 posts about news and events. Follow us [@LADAOffice](https://twitter.com/LADAOffice)



Courageous Citizen Award honorees Joshua White (front row, left), Rosa Almanza and Luis Moreno are congratulated by Long Beach Rotary Club President Greg Burnight (second row), Deputy District Attorney Lee Ashley Cernok, District Attorney Jackie Lacey and Deputy District Attorneys Safaan Ahmed and Lee Orquiola. The Long Beach ceremony was held on August 5, 2015.



Courageous Citizens Honored For Helping Victims, Police, Prosecutors

They helped victims when no one else would. They testified in court despite their fears. They spoke with police when others said nothing.

They were the 30 people who received the District Attorney’s Courageous Citizen Award in 2015-2016.

The honorees included people like Hollie Bowers, a student at the University of Southern California, who stopped her car on the 91 Freeway to call authorities and comfort a stranger who was fatally injured in a collision caused by a drunken driver. She also accompanied the victim’s wife in court.

Other honorees included Mandeep Kumar and Robert Espina, who helped stop a gang member’s attack on a woman in Los Angeles’ Westlake District, assisted police and, at great risk to themselves, testified in court. Without their testimony, the defendant may never have been prosecuted and sentenced to prison for 10 years.

Luz Maria Torres, of Ontario, was recognized for stopping her car and confronting a man attempting to kidnap a 13-year-old girl. The girl got away. Torres tracked the defendant until sheriff’s deputies arrested him.

These and other Courageous Citizen honorees were recognized at ceremonies throughout Los Angeles County. The award recipients were nominated by deputy district attorneys and others in the office.

“Each of these individuals stepped into extremely difficult situations and remained dedicated to the pursuit of justice,” District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. “Their actions were driven by their strong belief in helping another person, even when there was great pressure to do otherwise.”

The District Attorney’s Office started this public recognition program in 1986 to inspire others to do the right thing when the time calls.

Murals Brighten Children’s Room; Oasis for Kids, Families in Criminal Cases

When children need to come to the District Attorney’s Office, the reasons often are grim.

The children’s waiting room at the Hall of Justice offered these children a small oasis. The room, adjacent to the office’s Family Violence and Sex Crimes divisions, was filled with games, books and a television with a collection of children’s shows and movies on DVDs.

To brighten the room, murals created by Jose Heredia, a graphic artist in the office, were installed in December 2016.

The colorful murals depicted a journey through time, starting with Jurassic-period dinosaurs. The murals also showed a Stone Age panda bear;

a zebra from ancient Egypt; a monkey pirate; a polar bear, pig and lion from the Renaissance; a dancing giraffe and dog from the Roaring ’20s; a Space Age mouse; and an elephant scientist.

“The children’s room is a very important place in the District Attorney’s Office,” District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. “It gives children a chance to relax, play and be kids even when they are facing situations that no one – not even adults – should ever have to confront.”

“The murals were a welcome addition to the room, cheering and entertaining children while they and their families are at our office,” she added.

Education Program that Focuses on Law, Decision-Making Grows to New Heights

Project LEAD, the law-related education program of the District Attorney’s Office, reached approximately 2,550 students in the fall of 2016 – the most in the program’s 23-year history.

For that school year, 198 facilitators volunteered to teach fifth-grade students in Los Angeles County public schools. The deputy district attorneys, investigators, paralegals and other Project LEAD instructors were in 85 classrooms in 47 schools, spending roughly one hour a week with students throughout the school year.

The 20-week curriculum was developed in partnership with the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Through Project LEAD, more than 33,000 students over two decades learned about the criminal justice system, resolving conflicts, resisting peer pressure, respect for diversity and making the right decisions in life.

“Project LEAD helps students connect with the criminal justice system in a positive way,” District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. “The presence of prosecutors and investigators in the lives of students helps build constructive relationships. It instills trust with law enforcement and gives students someone in the criminal justice system to admire.”

Research showed that students who completed the Project LEAD curriculum gained a solid respect for authority figures and “protective factors” that helped them stay out of trouble.

In 2015, the District Attorney’s Office brought Project LEAD to the Compton Unified School District as part of its involvement with the national Violence Reduction Network.

That initiative, led by the U.S. Department of Justice, brought together local and federal resources to combat chronic and violent crime in a variety of cities.

Fourteen deputy district attorneys and investigators primarily from the Compton Branch Office, the Compton Juvenile Office and the Hardcore Gang Division in Compton volunteered to teach the program in Compton schools.

The expansion of the program within the county came as Project LEAD spread to other communities throughout the country and across the border in Quebec, Canada.



Senior Writer:
Matt Krasnowski

Design:
Noelle Bailey

Photography:
Leon Nyarecha
Cassi Glisper

Editorial Committee:
Jean Guccione
Shiara Dávila-Morales
Greg Risling
Sarah Ardalani
Ricardo Santiago
Kerry Bigornia

Printed in-house by the Reproduction Section:
Kathy Cantu
Anthony James
Zelma Holmes
Susan Zabala

For Assistance:
Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office
211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-3512
info@da.lacounty.gov
http://da.lacounty.gov

Follow us @ LADAOffice 

