



BIENNIAL REPORT

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE • DISTRICT ATTORNEY MICHAEL A. HESTRIN



MISSION STATEMENT

The District Attorney of Riverside County, as the public prosecutor acting on behalf of the People, vigorously enforces the law, pursues the truth, and safeguards the rights of all to ensure that justice is done on behalf of our community.

The District Attorney works with every component of the criminal justice system to protect the innocent, to convict and appropriately punish the guilty, and to protect the rights of victims.

The District Attorney also works within our community to prevent and deter crime and to promote public safety, now and for future generations.

The District Attorney fulfills these critical responsibilities through the efforts of the employees of the District Attorney's Office, and each employee is integral to achieving this mission. To that end, we, the employees of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, will adopt the highest standards of ethical behavior and professionalism and proudly commit ourselves to the following core values in the performance of our duties: Integrity, Respect, Quality, Loyalty, Teamwork, Partnership, Innovation, Fairness, and Service.

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2016-2017 BIENNIAL REPORT

RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



For the last three years, I have had the honor and privilege to serve as the 15th District Attorney for the County of Riverside.

During this time, we have faced new and significant challenges -- a changing criminal justice landscape, budgetary concerns, and a community seeking reinvigorated and innovative approaches to public safety.

Our team has tackled those challenges head-on and with a common goal to provide unsurpassed investigative and prosecutorial services to the citizens of Riverside County. I am proud to lead the men and women of this office who share an unwavering commitment to the cause of justice and the public trust, utilize creative solutions to overcome complex problems amid limited resources, and work tirelessly and with integrity to enhance the safety and security of our community. It is through their efforts that we accomplished the extraordinary achievements outlined in this Report.

In the two years covered in this report, we modernized our office to compete in the 21st century via an updated computer system and paperless filing, resulting in increased efficiency and without any cost to taxpayers. We invested in the future today by targeting at-risk youth with innovative and award-winning crime prevention measures. We worked to retake our streets from the plague of violent crime and gangs, and to protect our most vulnerable citizens from sexual predators. We sought to rebuild the public's trust and confidence by holding public officials accountable to the people they represent. We enhanced our relationship with the community as a whole through expanded outreach and educational programs, as well as comprehensive services to crime victims.

While we have done a great deal in such a short period, there is still more to do. We are committed to building upon our successes in the coming years and continuing to provide the strong and steady leadership necessary to achieve justice for our community.

MICHAEL A. HESTRIN
District Attorney



LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SAFETY • PARTNERSHIP

ABOUT US



John Aki

Chief Assistant District Attorney
Cal State, Los Angeles, B.S. - 1992
Southwestern University, J.D. - 1996
Joined the District Attorney's Office - 1997

Recognizing that employee engagement is indispensable to the success of our organization, we subscribe to servant-based leadership that welcomes innovation, participation and the taking of personal responsibility from all who work at the District Attorney's Office. While we understand that management is the skillful handling of people and the proper use of resources, we strive to shape leaders who will empower people to discover and perform to their greatest potential.

The leadership of our office draws its strength from the unity of our purpose, which is to ensure that we are faithful and vigilant in serving the People of the State of California.



Michelle D. Paradise

Assistant District Attorney
Eastern Region
University of San Diego, B.A. - 1994
University of San Diego, J.D. - 1997
Joined the District Attorney's Office - 1997



Michael Cabral

Assistant District Attorney
Southwest/Mid-County Region
Cal State Chico, B.A. - 1981
San Jose State University, M.A., - 1983
Southwestern University, J.D. - 1986
Joined the District Attorney's Office - 2015



Jeanne Roy

Assistant District Attorney
Western Region
Cal State Fullerton, B.A. - 1982
University of San Diego, J.D. - 1986
Joined the District Attorney's Office - 1988



Joseph DelGiudice

Chief, Bureau of Investigation
University of California Riverside, B.S. - 1994
Cal State University, San Bernardino, MPA - 1999
Joined the District Attorney's Office - 2004



Elaina Bentley

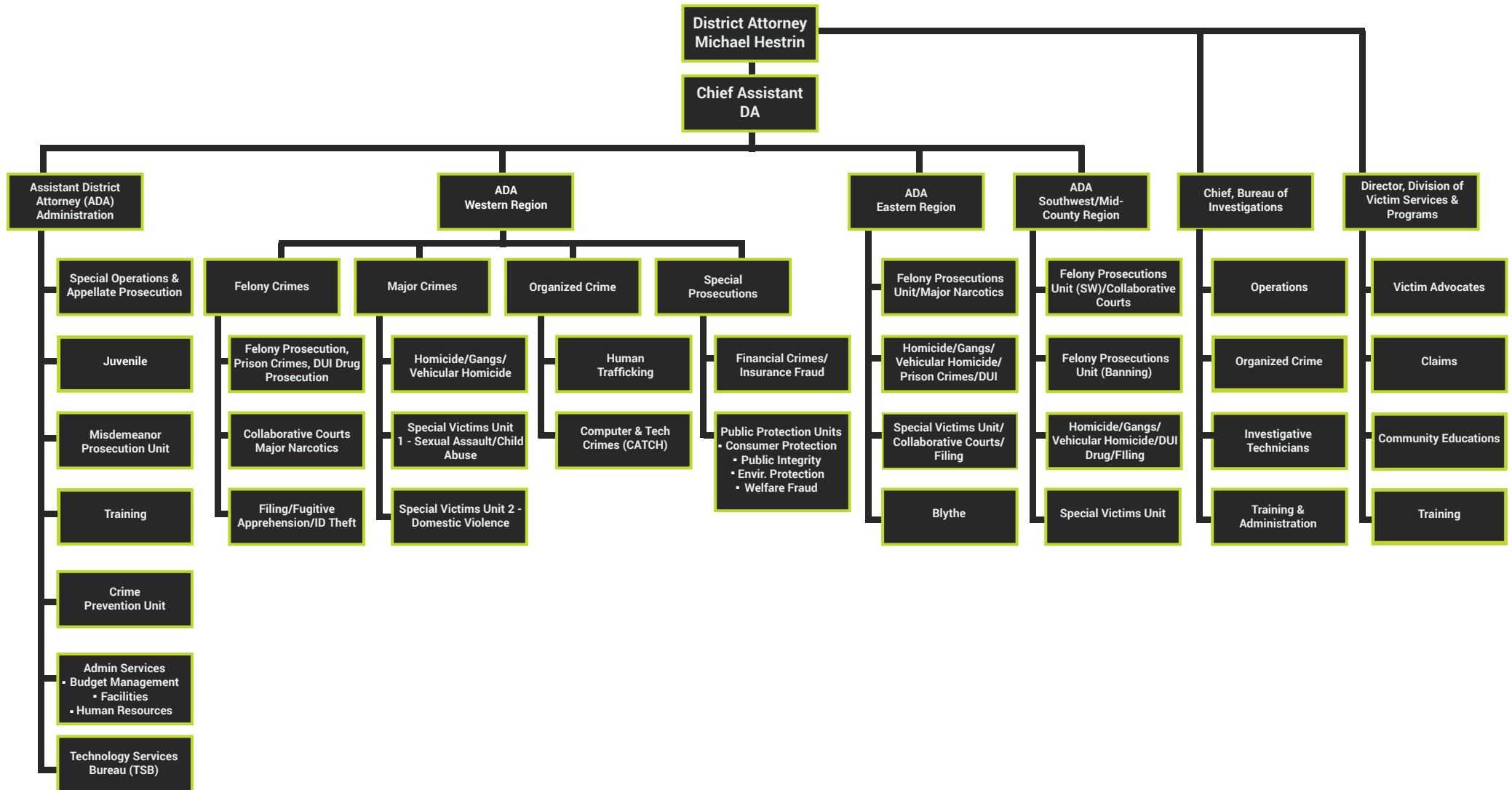
Assistant District Attorney
Administration Division
University of the Pacific, B.S. - 1983
McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, J.D. - 1987
Chapman University School of Law, L.L.M. - 2008
Joined the District Attorney's Office - 1988



Melissa Donaldson

Director Division of Victim Services and Programs
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, B.S. - 1984
Joined the District Attorney's Office - 2015

ORGANIZATION CHART



MESSAGE FROM THE BUREAU CHIEF



I have been privileged to serve for the last three years as the Chief of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation.

Upon being appointed to this position, I was tasked not only with leading the brave men and women who make up the Bureau, but also to revamp and revitalize it. We continue to provide outstanding investigative services and, at the same time, fulfill the District Attorney's commitment to modernize and improve, both organizationally and technologically.

I am so proud every day to see the hard work and dedication of the Investigators, Investigative Technicians, Forensic Investigative Technicians, and support staff that make up the Bureau. They too have been anxious to see the Bureau become even more efficient and advanced. With their input and support, we have improved communication by giving our investigators real-time access to crime reports, criminal history information, and much more—while they are in the field. This has not been easy, but, as is no surprise, the professionals within the Bureau have made this a resounding success.

The Bureau also played an integral part in realizing the vision for a more open and transparent District Attorney's Office. The Bureau was the first to demonstrate that cooperative policymaking is not only possible—but is preferable. I asked non-management members of the Bureau to take the lead in forming a Strategic Planning Group aimed at identifying areas of improvement and identifying possible solutions. This group has no filter, no constraints, and provides feedback directly to me. The main goal was to identify ways to improve our procedures, boost morale, and enhance the daily lives of our hardworking and motivated Bureau staff. With their help and determination, we have begun to do just that.

Our Bureau of Investigation does so much to make this community safer each day. It is vitally important to recognize that this requires not just one person, but everyone within our Bureau. It also requires the resources to achieve the top priority in our county: keeping its citizens free from crime. I look forward to continuing the work we have done to rebuild.

JOSEPH DELGUIDICE
Bureau Chief



Our personnel in the Bureau of Investigation are comprised of seasoned peace officers, who serve as Investigators, as well as Investigative Technicians and clerical staff who provide critical support to enable our attorneys to obtain justice.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BUREAU SPOTLIGHT



Sr. Investigator II Jose Guerrero

Senior Investigator II Jose Guerrero is assigned to the Eastern Region Gang Unit. In 2017, Investigator Guerrero was the investigator for six separate homicide and three attempted murder jury trials, as well as two complex murder cases that went to preliminary hearing.

In *People v. Magana*, where a carjacking and shooting of an Army Reservist resulted in the reluctance of a key witness to testify due to gang intimidation, Investigator Guerrero was instrumental in securing the witness' testimony. Her eventual testimony and his diligence resulted in a sentence of 25 years-to-life for the defendant.

People v. Arellano involved the brutal stabbing of a man, where the victim was romantically involved with a gang member's ex-girlfriend. Dealing with intense witness intimidation tactics both inside and out of the courtroom, Investigator Guerrero managed to provide security for the prosecutor and witnesses, along with providing investigative support that resulted in a sentence of 25-years-to-life for the defendant.

The amount of time which Investigator Guerrero dedicates to locating witnesses, surveilling crime scenes, and working to build a strong case is unmatched. In addition, he participates in the Bureau's Special Activities Unit, serves as an Eastern Region Range Master, and works as a Training Officer for newly hired Bureau personnel.



On the afternoon of August 12, 2016, Robert Francis Baker, a convicted sex offender, pulled his car up alongside a 12-year old girl in Temecula, California. Baker repeatedly asked the girl if she wanted a ride. She told him over and over again, "no." Baker refused to take no for an answer and continued to roll his vehicle as the girl walked. Senior Investigator Ron McGowan was in the area working at the time on a separate case when he witnessed the interaction. Investigator McGowan approached the vehicle and asked the young girl if she knew Baker. When the girl stated she did not, McGowan detained Baker and contacted the Riverside Sheriff's Department, who took over the investigation. Sheriff's Investigators subsequently searched the defendant's car, where they found condoms and other sexual items. In addition, a search of the defendant's home revealed computers loaded with child pornography. Because of Investigator McGowan's quick thinking and intervention, the defendant was stopped. He was convicted and sentenced to 60 years to life.

Investigator Ron McGowan

FRAUD TEAMS SPOTLIGHT

Real Estate Fraud

In 2015, at the direction of District Attorney Mike Hestrin, the Riverside County Real Estate Fraud Task Force was formed to investigate and prosecute crimes involving real estate fraud.

Since that time, multiple law enforcement agencies have partnered with the District Attorney's Office. In addition to officers from those agencies, the task force also has one supervising District Attorney's Investigator, four senior District Attorney's Investigators, four District Attorney Investigative Technicians, and one real estate document examiner. The Real Estate Fraud Task Force has personnel located in each of our three regional offices – Riverside, Indio, and Murrieta. The task force receives, on average, between 12 and 20 new complaints each month.

One example of the work done by the task force was the arrest on December 1, 2016, of six people charged in a criminal case involving an elaborate scheme using fraudulent documents to defraud victims of money and a property in Palm Desert. The defendants were accused of using fraudulent escrow files, bank statements, pay stubs, W-2 forms, and forged signatures, resulting in a loss estimated at \$219,000. Two of the six defendants were also charged in an Orange County case, also investigated by the task force, as the property was in Riverside County. That home ultimately went into foreclosure and was sold. The loss in that case was estimated at \$250,000.

SPS – Insurance Fraud Team (Dave Jones and Matt Borden)

Insurance Fraud is a team within the Special Prosecutions Section of the District Attorney's Office. The criminals involved in these cases are doctors, lawyers, and chiropractors who commit billions of dollars worth of thefts each year. These providers form networks that operate like organized crime syndicates. These criminals are often smart, wealthy, and educated with teams of attorneys at the ready.

Senior Investigator Dave Jones was first assigned to work these cases in October of 2016. He has quickly made a name for himself amongst the industry's investigators. He was joined by Senior Investigator Matt Borden in 2017, and together they authored and executed more than 30 search warrants and conducted more than 40 interviews in 2017 alone. Their work involves complex, multi-county investigations – requiring countless hours to search, investigate, and prosecute these highly sophisticated criminal enterprises.



SPS Insurance Fraud Team

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES AND PROGRAMS



To be the victim of any crime, but especially a violent one, not only devastates the individual and their family, but often leaves long term trauma on those involved.

This is where the Division of Victim Services steps in to help. Our Victim Service Advocates not only facilitate the delivery of immediate crisis services, but also serve as a critical member of our prosecution team, providing needed guidance and support throughout the criminal justice process. In our advocacy role, we ensure all victims' are informed of their constitutional rights under Marsy's Law. These rights guarantee that victims have the right to be heard, treated with fairness, and respect and dignity. Victims also have the right to be informed about the status of their case, to be protected, to attend all court proceedings, have support if called as a witness, obtain restitution, and so much more. Advocates safeguard these rights and ensure our victims are cared for and heard throughout the prosecution of the case.

Over the past two years, I have worked with our amazing team of advocates and victim advocacy leaders to rebuild the vision of the Riverside County District Attorney's Division of Victim Services (DVS). We have restructured our operations and redeployed resources to create a more responsive, efficient and effective service model. Our innovative programming and expanded services now reach not only the victims we serve, but others in our communities as well. Our most notable new program is the DVS Crisis Response Team (CRT). The DVS management team, in concert with other District Attorney's Offices throughout Southern California, made the decision to develop a team of advocates and management staff capable of responding to mass casualty/ victimization events in Riverside County.


We knew it wasn't a question of if something were to happen, but when. Sadly, our team was deployed to the largest mass shooting in United States history on October 1 2017, in Las Vegas. We sent a team of five staff who worked tirelessly for two weeks, alongside other responders. Among the thousands of displaced and traumatized needing service in Las Vegas, we also set about to contact the multitude of Riverside County citizens that came home needing follow up services, as well as our devastated families who had lost family members. We delivered services to victims in hospitals, in their homes and in our DA regional offices. Our CRT team continues to serve these victims in partnership with the FBI, States Attorney's Office, The County of Riverside, California Victims Compensation Board, California Office of Emergency Services and community partners.

Victim Services has also worked very hard to secure additional revenue to ensure we continue to serve our victims of crime. Our diligence in pursuing and writing grants, along with our innovative programming, has resulted in significant and increased dollars for direct victim services. I am proud to report that our work in this regard has resulted in a Division that is now 90% grant funded – a first in the history of DVS! We have successfully reduced the financial burden on the County budget, at the same time we increased services to our victims, and increased funding to our community partners who provide crucial professional support services.

Our collaborative model of working within our communities is best exemplified through the Riverside County Family Justice Centers (FJC), a separate nonprofit founded to provide co-located, multi-disciplinary services to victims of violent crime. Our increase in grants has resulted in funding many community-based agencies in these FJCs. The services available to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and teen dating violence victims are at an historic all-time high, and we have more partners in all three FJC sites than ever before. This means we are now able to expand access to even more services for victims and their families throughout the County; and specifically, for our most vulnerable victims, our children, who can now receive child-centered and trauma-informed services with trained professionals as they begin the process of healing.

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office Division of Victims Services has provided services to victims and witnesses since 1980. Since that time, we have seen vast improvements in the treatment of victims and witnesses in our criminal justice system. However, there is more work to be done. We will continue to respond to advances in the understanding of the direct and indirect impacts of crime, trauma and victimization. We remain steadfast in our mission to help the victims of crime in our County, while supporting the successful prosecution that is key to community safety. I am proud to lead the courageous staff that make up the Division of Victim Services.

MELISSA DONALDSON
Director of the Division of Victim Services and Programs



After suffering at the hands of their abusers, crime victims often feel overwhelmed and alone, and the criminal justice system can be intimidating, confusing, and frustrating. Our trained and experienced Victim Services Advocates welcome crime victims and witnesses through the doors of the District Attorney's Office with open arms and a desire to assist.

DIVISION OF VICTIM SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Victims' Rights Week

Every April, the Division of Victim Services organizes a series of events to recognize and honor crime victims and their loved ones. The highlight of the week are the vigils held across Riverside County to commemorate those crime victims who were lost to acts of violence. Each year, joined by members of the community and law enforcement officials, thousands of families attend the vigils. These vigils strive to ensure that we will never forget those who were befallen to violent crime.

“Serving Victims, Building Trust, and Restoring Hope” was the theme of the 2016 Crime Victim’s Rights Week.



VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 2017
Strength. Resilience. Justice.

Las Vegas Crisis Response Team

Following the heartbreaking mass shooting in Las Vegas, our Advocates took their skills and know-how on the road to assist the victims and their families impacted by the Las Vegas shooting. These advocates donated their time and effort in the immediate days following this tragic event, and continue to provide services to victims and their families living in Riverside County. As a result, our Crisis Response Team (CRT) has received awards at the national and local level for its work.



IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW...

was a victim in the Las Vegas mass shooting, help is available through our office for Riverside County residents. People affected by this tragic event may be eligible for assistance from The California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB).

The program may also assist victims with crime-related expenses such as:

- Medical and dental treatment
- Mental health services
- Income loss
- Funeral and burial expenses
- Loss of support for dependents when a victim is killed or disabled because of a crime
- Home or vehicle modifications
- Home security
- Relocation
- Crime scene cleanup

For more information, please contact our Division of Victim Services at:

Riverside: (951) 955-5450
Indio: (760) 863-8408
Murrieta: (951) 304-5680



more than **150** direct victims
and **35** family members were
assisted in Riverside County.

Numerous social media postings were created and shared

On the DA's Facebook and Twitter pages, the CALVCB/Las Vegas assistance flier reached: Facebook: **126,827** views; shared **1,580** times; and comments, reactions, and shares total **3,762**. Twitter: **4,415** impressions (times people saw it on Twitter), and people interacted (likes, retweets, etc.) **136** times.

Family Justice Center

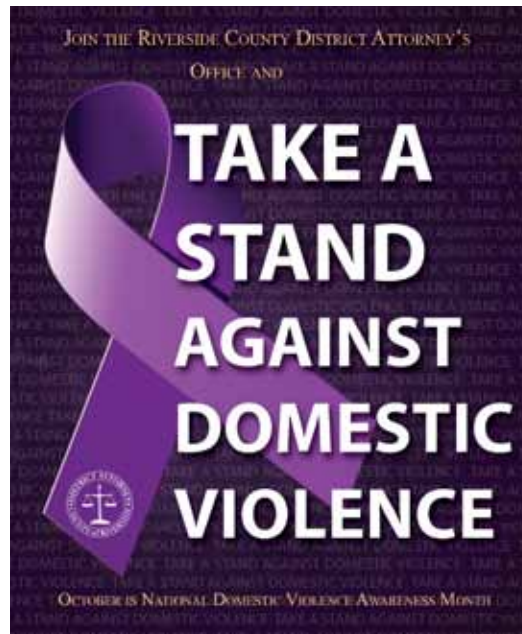
Our Family Justice Center (FJC) is a fully funded partnership that works with those who have had their families touched by domestic violence, sexual assault, and child or elder abuse. The FJC is a safe place and a “one stop shop” where multiple agencies are housed to assist victimized families and discuss options about safety, emotional well-being, and their legal rights as a victim of a crime. In addition, FJC works directly with underserved communities, such as Blythe, providing the community with much needed resources. In 2017, our FJC served over 4,500 clients countywide. These critical services were made possible by funding received through the Family Stability Grant.

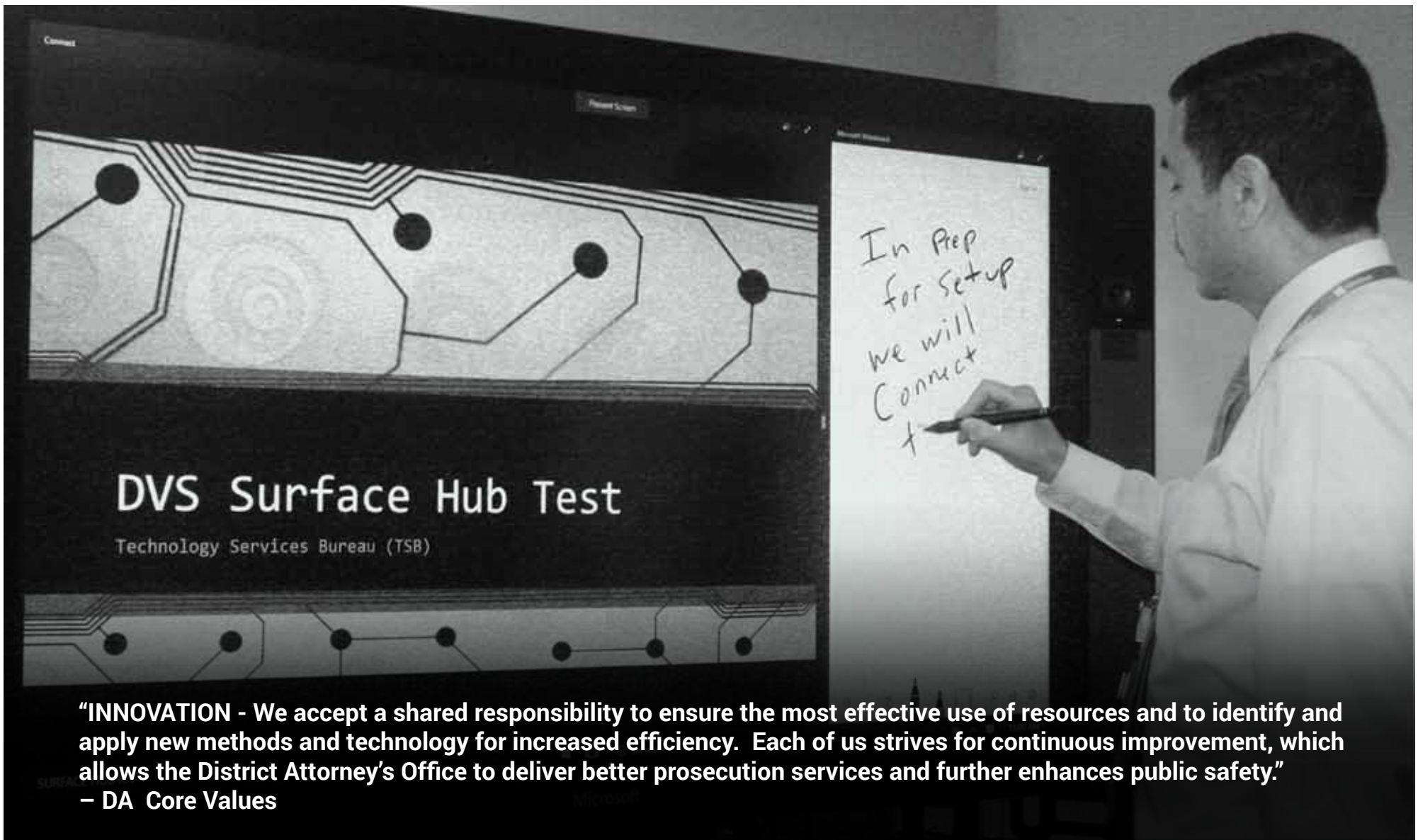
Spirit of Giving

As part of the mission to give back, our FJC team is committed to raising money for those affected by violent crime and neglect. Each year, across the county, our FJC and Victims Services Advocates join together to raise money during the holiday season and to provide gifts to children touched by crime. In addition, the annual Day of Giving event seeks to help those in need. In 2017, we successfully raised nearly \$2,000 in a single day!

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month each October, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office posted information, resources, and statistics about domestic violence on all of our social media platforms. We also posted photos of those who joined the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) campaign and chose to “Take A Stand” against domestic violence.





“INNOVATION - We accept a shared responsibility to ensure the most effective use of resources and to identify and apply new methods and technology for increased efficiency. Each of us strives for continuous improvement, which allows the District Attorney’s Office to deliver better prosecution services and further enhances public safety.”
– DA Core Values

MODERNIZATION AND INNOVATION

As the criminal justice landscape is constantly changing, so too is technology. To fulfill our public safety mission, we must modernize along with technology and, in these budget-challenging times, harness its capabilities to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. Likewise, we must constantly analyze, evaluate, and improve the way we do business, including our policies, organizational structure, and approach to problems. Utilizing our best asset – our creative and hardworking staff – the District Attorney’s Office has not only completely overhauled its woefully antiquated technology at zero cost to the taxpayer, but also set out on a mission to re-examine and revise all of our policies and procedures and to implement a problem-solving participatory management structure.

Case Management System

In March of 2017, the District Attorney’s Office modernized its decades-old case management system. Upon assuming office, and recognizing that the old system was inadequate to support the day-to-day functions of a modern law office, District Attorney Hestrin assembled a core team from all sectors of the office (clerical, attorneys, paralegals, investigators, and advocates) to begin the process of building a solution from the ground up. The directive for the core team was to modernize our case management technology and reduce the voluminous amount of paper used by the Office. Working alongside the talented members of our Office’s Technology Services Bureau (pictured below), this team did just that – *at no additional cost to taxpayers*.

This multi-disciplinary team worked tirelessly over a two-year period to make District Attorney Hestrin’s vision a reality. They not only diagrammed the Office’s current workflows, analyzed them, and gathered requirements from their colleagues, but they also provided hotline support, live and on-demand training and videos, with the assistance of the Training Unit and DDA Luigi Monteleone, and even deployed a custom application developed by DDA Bouffard to improve user interface. Our goal was to develop a system built around how our Office functions, not how some commercial off the shelf (COTS) product dictates. The result was the Office’s first Case Management System (CMS).



Technology Services Bureau (TSB)

At the same time, our Office successfully implemented electronic filing with the Riverside Superior Courts, and is actively working to implement a LEAFS (Law Enforcement Agency Filing System) system that can electronically receive reports, cases, and evidence from our law enforcement partners. In conjunction with CMS, these initiatives will facilitate better record keeping, enhance our Office's ability to determine how to best focus our limited resources, and allow for the development of a countywide paperless criminal justice system, ultimately saving millions in taxpayer dollars by eliminating paper costs and the need for redundant work by staff in separate agencies.

However, the work does not end there, and the team behind the design of this initiative did not disband. Instead, the Office formed a CMS Change Advisory Board (CCAB). Comprised of CMS stakeholders - both managers and line level staff - CCAB solicits suggestions from the Office and uses this valuable input to continually update and enhance CMS functionality. These efforts will culminate in the release of a major update to CMS in late 2018. Due to the continued effort and dedication of our employees, CMS will only continue to improve and adapt with the Office.

Post-Conviction Review Committee

District Attorney Hestrin also implemented a committee of seasoned prosecutors and managers throughout the County to examine post-conviction claims of innocence. This committee adheres to the highest standards of professional integrity in the thorough review of post-conviction cases where credible and verifiable evidence of innocence exists or new technologies are developed to test or retest remaining evidence. This team works collaboratively with subject matter experts and criminal justice partners to ensure the integrity of lawful convictions, as well as the exoneration of the wrongfully convicted.

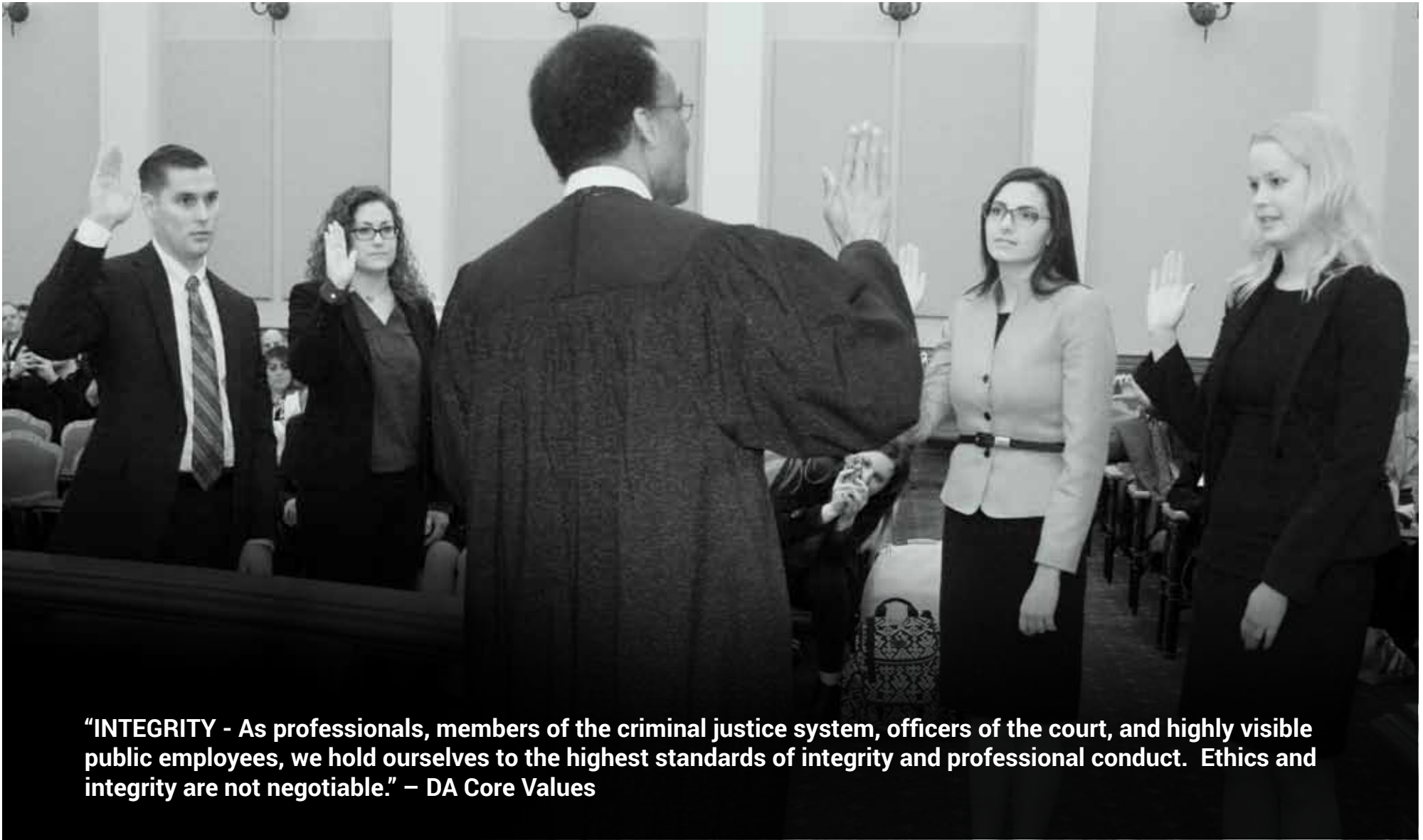
Policy Committee

Inheriting a somewhat outdated and piecemeal office policy manual, District Attorney Hestrin brought together attorneys from all experience levels and geographical regions to work together with management to review and update various DA's Office internal policies. This Office Policy Committee meets regularly, and emergently as needed, to update and create office policy needed to address new laws, rules and procedures. This novel approach to policy formulation has been an overwhelming success and a model for prosecutorial agencies throughout our state.



Bureau Working Group and Deputy District Attorney IV Working Group

In our 2015 year-end report, we challenged ourselves to become a more transparent and participatory office – no longer expecting management alone to identify needed areas for improvement or address issues facing our employees. We resolved to invest our line-level employees in shaping the future of this office through the creation of two committees: the Bureau Working Group and the Deputy District Attorney IV Working Group. Committee members can identify problems that sometimes go unseen by management. Members are empowered to formulate potential, and often creative, solutions which are shared directly with District Attorney Hestrin. These working groups are already providing invaluable feedback to executive and management teams on issues impacting work quality and productivity to ways of improving the professional lives and working environment of those who do this critically important work.



“INTEGRITY - As professionals, members of the criminal justice system, officers of the court, and highly visible public employees, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity and professional conduct. Ethics and integrity are not negotiable.” – DA Core Values

ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF OUR PROSECUTIONS

“The District Attorney of Riverside County, as the public prosecutor acting on behalf of the People, vigorously enforces the law, pursues the truth, and safeguards the rights of all to ensure that justice is done on behalf of our community.” To accomplish our primary mission, the Training and Brady Units ensure that we perform at the highest levels of competence, professionalism, and ethics; while our Appellate Unit ensures that the law is scrupulously followed by both ourselves and our justice partners.

Training Unit

In the past, the District Attorney’s Office routinely sent its attorneys to trainings and seminars across the country. In an effort to conserve resources and capitalize on the incredible talent that already exists within the District Attorney’s Office, we began to conduct more trainings in house. In 2016, we dramatically increased the in-house training program—conducting more educational programs than in any year in recent memory. The hard-working staff of the Training Unit provided over 180 hours of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) in 2016 and 264 hours of MCLE in 2017. Over 1,600 students attended these trainings in 2016, and 2,051 students attended in 2017.

These efforts have saved valuable time and money while providing world-class training right here in our Office. This, of course, is in addition to the work the Training Unit has been doing for many years in preparing new lawyers, clerical staff, Bureau personnel, and advocates for their entry-level training.

The Training Unit also serves as a leader within Riverside County’s Law Enforcement Community. To that end, we offer legal and best-practice training to police agencies. This training is provided free of cost. Training offered in 2016 and 2017 included:

- **California Electronic Communications Privacy Act (CalECPA)**, a dramatic change in state search warrant law. This training campaign included classroom instruction at the DA’s Office, police station briefing trainings, and online video resources, ultimately reaching over 500 officers. Training was presented on-demand and free of cost to agencies (including the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department, Riverside Police Department, Murrieta Police Department, Desert Hot Springs Police, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Riverside County Gang Investigator’s Association, Riverside County Law Enforcement Trainer’s Association, Southwest Area School Resource Officers, and the California Department of Justice). As part of this educational campaign, the Training Unit created an online digital resource manual for law enforcement. Police officers can reach the manual via an internet link and access video classes and sample warrant materials.
- **P.O.S.T. Certified Courtroom Testimony Training Course.** Two times a year, the Training Unit teaches an all-day courtroom testimony class for the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department at the Ben Clark Training Center.

- **Identification, Investigation and Prosecution of Assault Weapons.** In January 2016, the Training Unit presented live classes countywide on the identification, investigation, and prosecution of assault weapons. The class was created by District Attorney Senior Investigator Mike Riley for patrol officers and deputy district attorneys, and over 150 officers attended the three classes
- **Perkins Operation Training.** The Training Unit recruited California's foremost Perkins expert to teach two 4-hour courses here in Riverside County. The class was offered to law enforcement investigators countywide and addressed the practical and legal issues raised in these sensitive investigations from inception through prosecution.
- **Crimes Against Peace Officers Training & Rap Sheet Training.** In June 2016, the Training Unit was invited to create a training series for the Corona Police Department. The series was taught to every sworn peace officer in the department and included courses on the Investigation & Charging of Crimes Against Peace Officers and Effective Reading & Use of CLETs Rap Sheets.
- **Juvenile Miranda Law Training.** In 2017, Governor Brown signed SB-395 into law. This new statute makes significant changes to police investigations of serious crimes involving juvenile suspects. The Training Unit joined with appellate and juvenile prosecutors to study the new law and created training specifically for police investigators. Classes were presented live across Riverside County (over 200 police officers attended this training – including officers and prosecutors from San Bernardino County agencies).
- **Regional Sexual Assault, Child Abuse Training.** In February 2017 and December 2017, the Training Unit presented all-day training conferences on the investigation and prosecution of Sexual Assault, Child Abuse cases (S.A.C.A.). Classes were taught by veteran S.A.C.A. prosecutors, forensic pediatricians, and sexual assault examination nurses. These SACA Conferences were created specifically for local police investigators. Over 100 investigators attended.



Managing Deputy DA Carlos Monagas



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

10-8 Update

A Monthly Publication for Riverside County Law Enforcement Agencies – November 2017

WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE § 625.6: NEW LAW AFFECTS JUVENILE MIRANDA

SB 395 Adds Welfare & Institutions § 625.6

On October 11, 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed seven juvenile justice bills into law. This 10-8 Update provides an overview of one of those new statutes, SB 395, which adds Section 625.6 to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). This law is effective January 1, 2018.

Under section 625.6, juveniles under the age of 16 must have an opportunity to speak to an attorney before any custodial interrogation. Section 625.6(a) states: "Prior to a custodial interrogation, and before the waiver of any Miranda rights, a youth 15 years of age or younger shall consult with legal counsel in person, by telephone, or by video conference. The consultation may not be waived."

In the simplest terms, section 625.6 now requires officers to set up a meeting between a juvenile suspect (under the age of 16) and a defense attorney before a Miranda warning and an in-custody interview. The meeting does not have to be in-person, but must at least be made available by phone, skype, video conference, etc.

This new law provides two limited exceptions:

Police Officer Exception – Imminent Threats to Life or Property

Section 625.6(c) allows police officers to skip the defense attorney consultation if (1) the "officer who questioned the youth reasonably believed the information he or she sought was necessary to protect life or property from an imminent threat," and (2) the questioning is strictly limited to topics "reasonably necessary to obtain that information." This does not excuse our obligation to administer Miranda warnings and secure a valid waiver from the suspect. Only the defense lawyer meeting is excused.

Probation Officer Exception – Normal Performance of Probation Duties

Section 625.6(d) excuses probation officers from complying with the attorney meeting requirement when they are engaged in "the normal performance of ... duties under

Section 625, 627.5, or 628." Again, this limited exception only applies to setting up the attorney meeting. Miranda warnings must still be given as appropriate.

Understanding How Miranda Applies to Juvenile Suspects Generally

The landmark US Supreme Court case of *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) 384 U.S. 436 requires that in-custody suspects be advised of their 5th Amendment rights, and voluntarily waive them, before any police questioning. In order for the *Miranda* obligation to trigger, three conditions must simultaneously exist:

1. The suspect must be in CUSTODY,
2. The suspect must be INTERROGATED, and
3. The questioning must be by LAW ENFORCEMENT or its agents.

"Custody" is a term of art within *Miranda*. It is generally defined as follows: The suspect "has been formally arrested, or there exists a restraint on freedom of movement of the degree associated with a formal arrest." (*California v. Beheler* (1983) 463 U.S. 1121.) "Interrogation" includes any words or actions by the police intended or likely "to elicit an incriminating response." (*People v. Abbott* (1970) 3 Cal.App.3d 966.)

These requirements apply to juveniles and adults alike. *Miranda* is therefore not triggered if a juvenile is out of custody. And once in custody, juveniles can give *Miranda* waivers. However, in court, a prosecutor's burden to show that a suspect's statements were voluntary is somewhat greater if the suspect is a juvenile. (*People v. Lessie* (2010) 47 Cal.4th 1152.) That is because judges consider the juvenile's maturity when deciding if a *Miranda* waiver was intelligently and voluntarily given. Judges are required to consider "the juvenile's age, experience, education, background, and intelligence, and whether he has the capacity to understand the warnings given to him, the nature of his Fifth Amendment rights, and the consequences of waiving those rights." (*Id.*)

(continued on the reverse)



- **Hemet Police Department Courtroom Testimony Training.** In October 2017, the Training Unit presented a courtroom testimony course to all sworn officers, dispatchers, and property room staff at the Hemet Police Department. The police department specifically requested this training and the District Attorney's Office delivered it free of cost.



Appellate Unit

Prosecution does not end in the trial court, and our Appellate Unit is a recognized statewide leader for its vigorous prosecution of complex and novel legal issues in the Superior Court, Courts of Appeal, and the California Supreme Court. This elite unit is integral in legislative reform, statewide appellate advocacy, and conviction integrity policy. Unit Deputies not only man a countywide hotline for emergent trial support, but also provide litigation support in complex criminal trials and civil prosecutions.

Statewide Leader in Appellate Prosecutions

In the last two years, the appellate unit filed or responded to over 150 felony and misdemeanor appeals and writs in the Superior Court Appellate Division, Fourth District Court of Appeal, and the California Supreme Court. Our Appellate Unit is at the forefront of litigation involving new legislation and ballot measures, including:

- Propositions 47 (reduced several felony crimes to misdemeanors)
- Proposition 57 (allowing for early release of state prisoners and changing the way charges are filed on juveniles)

In 2017, our appellate prosecutors argued issues of first impression *four times* in the California Supreme Court on issues of statewide importance in criminal law.

Legal Expertise and Education

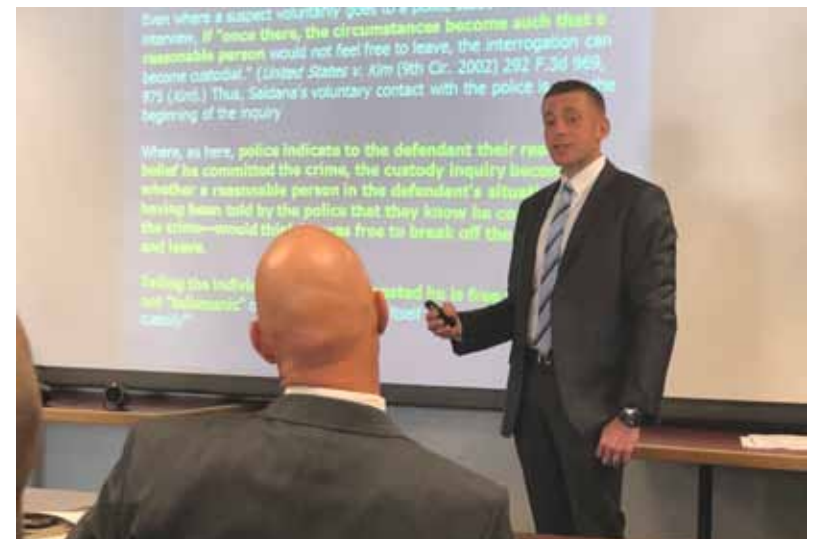
The Appellate Unit is the go-to source for complex legal analyses and advice, and plays a primary role in our training efforts, and policy formulation. The Appellate Unit provides timely and thorough legal memoranda and advice to attorneys, investigators, advocates, and management personnel on nearly every conceivable subject.

The Appellate Unit works side-by-side with the Training Unit to identify training needs and conduct countywide training on a variety of topics including Jury Selection, Criminal Discovery, Ethics, Juvenile Law, Fourth Amendment Search and Seizure, *Miranda*, Homicide Litigation, and Legal Research and Writing, among many others.

With regard to external training efforts, the District Attorney's Appellate Unit is always on the forefront of new legislation and case law and is a recognized statewide leader in keeping prosecutors and law enforcement officers abreast of legal developments. The District Attorney's CaseALERT, which reaches a phenomenal 1,500 criminal justice professionals statewide, is a daily e-mail summarizing the holdings of California and federal appellate court opinions dealing with criminal law issues, with hyperlinks to the court opinions so that readers may easily study the full text.



Appellate Unit provides training



Collaboratively Supporting Our Trial Prosecutors Secure Justice

When not arguing in the appellate courts, our appellate prosecutors bring their unique expertise into the trial courtroom. Whether supporting our trial teams on issues of first impression or assisting a trial prosecutor navigate complex legal motions, our countywide appellate prosecutors provide invaluable support. For example, in 2016, Appellate prosecutor DDA Natalie Lough successfully co-chaired two complex homicide prosecutions – a death penalty with senior homicide prosecutor DDA Jon Brandon in the Western Region, and a child homicide with seasoned homicide prosecutor ADA Michelle Paradise in the Eastern Region.

Brady and Ethics Unit

The role of the public prosecutor is different from all other lawyers and participants in the criminal justice system. We are public servants imbued with a discretionary power not shared by our legal counterparts. For that reason, we bear the greatest moral responsibility and adhere to the highest ethical standards of professional conduct. The calling of a prosecutor is not that we win a case but that in all, above all, we do justice.

As Riverside County Deputy District Attorneys, we share a collective and individual commitment to remain students of the law, to vigorously and ethically seek justice, and to identify, correct and prevent mistakes and abuses in the quest for truth, on behalf of the People we serve. To this end, District Attorney Hestrin has reinforced our appellate services with a fully staffed stand-alone Brady and Ethics Unit.

Led by veteran trial prosecutor DDA Michael Romney, this unit keeps abreast of the latest cases, treatises, laws and rules to ensure that all of our prosecutors, investigators, advocates and prosecution team members are properly trained on the many new and significant developments in statutory discovery, state and federal constitutional disclosure obligations, and ethics rules. These Brady/Ethics prosecutors have developed cutting-edge expertise, best practice protocols, and are recognized trainers at the state and national levels.

Serving as an invaluable resource for our office and law enforcement partners, this unit provides hotline assistance, ethics advice, and ongoing training vital to our mission. In 2017, the Brady/Ethics Unit provided a series of live, multi-hour trainings throughout the county to prosecutors, public safety partners, and law enforcement alike. By year's end, DDA Romney alone had conducted over 38 well-attended office-wide trainings involving 65 hours of classroom time – a remarkable achievement that works to ensure the ethical prosecution of our criminal cases and to protect the integrity of our convictions.



Deputy DA Michael Romney



“The District Attorney also works within our community to prevent and deter crime and to promote public safety, now and for future generations.” – DA Mission Statement

CRIME PREVENTION AND JUVENILE OUTREACH

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

By creating CPU, the District Attorney's goal is to further enhance public safety while simultaneously seeking to reduce future costs associated with incarceration in an already impacted criminal justice system.

These programs are just a sample of more cutting edge crime prevention strategies to come and evidence of the dedication by our strong core of committed CPU prosecutors, while requiring no additional funding or cost to taxpayers.

Our state and national award-winning Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) is a hallmark of District Attorney Hestrin's overarching plan to create a safer community for the citizens of Riverside County now and in the future. We know our non-rehabilitated and delinquent youth of today become our criminal and incarcerated adults of tomorrow. The resulting costs to our communities, taxpayers and society- at-large are staggering in terms of lost productivity and earning potential, parent absenteeism, mental health, and addiction issues, and family cycles of crime. What if we could stomp out the root causes of crime before it occurs? This is the heart and soul of our crime prevention and intervention efforts.

Every person we send to prison was once a child at a crossroad. If we can identify and influence our youth before they reach that crossroad leading to a life of crime, then we can make a meaningful difference in our homes, schools and communities. Many at-risk youth are left with nowhere to go and no one to look up to or rely upon, with often tragic results. What starts as ditching school and tagging, gradually progresses to shoplifting and other theft crimes. Absent intervention, matters can go from bad to worse; with minors joining gangs and eventually committing serious and violent offenses leading to lengthy and/or repetitive incarcerations. Estimated average costs to incarcerate one inmate in a California prison is about \$71,000 per year. The cost to their potential victim(s) and loved ones can include lost quality of life, productivity, and earning potential, as well as physical and psychological injury and related healthcare costs.

The District Attorney's Office has made it our priority to end this crippling cycle through active engagement with our at-risk youth. Led by Managing Deputy District Attorney Gerry Lopez, our team of dedicated crime prevention prosecutors are reaching more youths than ever before with our innovative and internationally-recognized crime prevention programs and cutting-edge intervention strategies. With impressive results and several individual success stories, this fully grant-funded unit operates at no cost to taxpayers but reaps huge dividends in public safety.



In 2017, the Crime Prevention Unit won three very coveted awards that are not typically given to a prosecution agency. They include The Partners in Education Award by the Association of CA School Administrators, The Outstanding Community Service Award by the Riverside Co. Office of Ed., and the very prestigious Golden Bell Award by the CA School Board of Education.

Gang Awareness and Mentoring Education (GAME)

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office is fully dedicated and committed to reducing youth gang violence and delinquency in our communities. To be successful in this regard, the District Attorney's Office recognizes that our anti-gang efforts must employ a multi-faceted approach that extends well beyond traditional suppression strategies. Our highly acclaimed Gang Awareness and Mentoring Education (GAME) program is a prevention and intervention program for youth, recent offenders, educators and parents that focuses on three key strategies: Education, Collaboration, and Community Outreach.

In 2016 and 2017, our GAME program conducted over 500 presentations to nearly 50,000 people across Riverside County. Impressively, 85% of elementary school students surveyed after participating in GAME indicated they are less likely to join a gang because of the GAME presentation.

Youth Accountability Team (YAT)

The Youth Accountability Team (YAT) Program, spearheaded by the Probation Department, is responsible for intervention with at-risk youth and low-level offenders. Each YAT Deputy District Attorney is assigned to several teams, each comprised of a probation officer, a local law enforcement officer, and either a therapist or mental health professional. Participation by juveniles in the YAT program is voluntary and includes short-term, intensive supervision during which juveniles are monitored at school, at home, and in the community. The minors are referred to educational and/or intervention programs as needed. Parents are also provided with education to improve parenting skills.

In 2016 and 2017, 21 YAT teams fanned out across Riverside County, serving 17 school districts and visiting thousands of minors and their parents. Our teams served over 2,600 minors these last two years, and an incredible 76% of minors successfully completed the program.

Sunburst Youth Academy (SYA)

Sunburst Youth Academy (SYA) has a mission to intervene and reclaim the lives of 16-18 year-old high school dropouts and to produce program graduates with the values, life skills, education and self-discipline to succeed as productive citizens. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office collaborated with our community partners to bring the SYA orientations and recruitment efforts to Riverside County. This collaboration has helped families discover and participate in one of the most effective and successful juvenile intervention programs in the entire state. This partnership will greatly promote our efforts to help local youth overcome personal challenges, achieve academic and social success, and become the great leaders of tomorrow.





Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)

One of the very first signs that a youth may be diverting from a path of future success and toward a spiral of criminality is missing school. The goal of the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) is to increase student attendance. Throughout the school year, our Deputy District Attorneys meet with the parents, their children, and school officials to address the issues underlying chronic absenteeism and truancy. If, after numerous contacts and mediations, a child continues to be truant, the parents can be prosecuted for violations of the California Education Code and/or Penal Code, with the goal to ensure that their children get to school in order to obtain their education.

In 2016, the CPU set a strategic goal to make our SARB programming more effective. First, we added a dedicated SARB coordinator to ensure consistency and improve responsiveness. Then our SARB attorneys initiated countywide on-site school trainings. Then our SARB attorneys enhanced countywide on-site school trainings. Additionally, our SARB Coordinator began attending School District SARB meetings to improve communication and serve as a resource to increase program effectiveness. Finally, our SARB attorneys developed an improved system for meeting with parents of truant children. The results are impressive. In 2017, with the assistance of the District Attorney SARB Program, eight of our county's school districts were named as statewide model SARB Programs by the California Department of Education. This achievement shattered the County and State records.

Juvenile Division

Though not a part of the Crime Prevention Unit, our Juvenile Division plays an important and related role in our intervention and crime prevention efforts. The goal of our juvenile justice system is to treat and rehabilitate our juvenile offenders in order that they may overcome a troubled past and develop the life skills needed to lead a law-abiding and productive adult life. The Juvenile Team, led by Managing DDA Jennifer Chang, has been significantly impacted by the recent enactment of various juvenile reforms, including the passage of Propositions 57 and 64. Proposition 57 repealed the law that allowed prosecutors to file certain serious and violent cases directly in adult court. Proposition 64 reduced all juvenile marijuana offenses --including sales and transportation --to infractions and requires that we review and grant requests to reduce these charges in prior cases. These changes to the law greatly increased the workloads of our staff. Our hardworking prosecutors have not only absorbed these additional duties but have been actively training other attorneys in our office on changes to juvenile law as a result of Propositions 57, 64, and other reform measures.

Program Highlights

21

Youth Accountability Teams (YAT) serving 17 school districts

2,658

young people served in 2016-17 by YAT countywide

505,249

pages read by at-risk boys in countywide Real Men Read (RMR) program

1,205

books read in countywide Real Men Read (RMR) program

733

participants in countywide Real Men Read (RMR) program

510

gang awareness and mentorship education (GAME) presentations provided to about 47,000 people

Real Men Read

Real Men Read (RMR) continues to be a successful outreach literacy program aimed at providing young, at-risk and detained males with strong male role models in the community. Since its implementation in 2014, the program has encouraged hundreds of participants to spend their time reading and learning important life skills in lieu of engaging in negative or criminal conduct. In 2016 and 2017, 733 participants read over 500,000 pages, and finished over 1,200 books! Guest speakers included best-selling author Simone Elkeles and director/screenplay writer Christopher Landon. In partnership with the Riverside County Office of Education, youth in Juvenile Hall participating in RMR are eligible to earn up to 5 units of credit toward high school graduation. Moving forward, we continue to provide young men with the opportunity to effect positive change in their lives - one book at a time.



Force of Four

Deputy District Attorneys Vanessa Romero and Sharon Shuster developed this program in 2017, under the supervision of Managing Deputy District Attorney Gerry Lopez. The District Attorney's Office partnered with California Family Life Center's Empower Youth program to provide a unique mentorship opportunity for young people to explore future career options as part of the District Attorney's ongoing mission to reach at-risk and underprivileged youth in Riverside County. Participants in the program explore four career paths with four different mentors over four months. This program involves meeting with professionals, going on field trips, hands-on learning, and getting the chance to engage with individuals from all walks of life. The first program began in Hemet and will be expanding throughout the county in the future.



“The District Attorney works with every component of the criminal justice system to protect the innocent, to convict and appropriately punish the guilty, and to protect the rights of victims.” – DA Mission Statement

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

The core mission of the District Attorney's Office is to keep our community safe through the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases. To accomplish this mission most effectively, the District Attorney's Office is organized via an Integrated Trial Team (ITT) model of prosecution. This model physically groups attorney, investigator, victim-service, and non-attorney support personnel into specialized subject-matter teams to collaboratively prosecute assigned cases from start to finish.

Homicide Unit

The Homicide Unit consists of the most talented and experienced attorneys, investigators, and support staff in the office. The team works together to handle the complicated prosecutions of some of the most serious and violent crimes committed in this county – the unlawful death of another human being. The attorneys and investigators in the Homicide Unit work alongside law enforcement agencies, responding to homicide crime scenes and often assisting law enforcement in investigations, in order to ensure that an individual who commits murder is held responsible and justice is done.

People v. Gray (Eastern Region)

On the night of March 18, 2011, Cathedral City police Officer Jermaine Gibson tried to pull over a black Ford Mustang but the driver refused to stop, leading Officer Gibson on a high-speed pursuit that headed into Palm Springs. During the pursuit, Officer Gibson's marked patrol car crashed into a palm tree on South Palm Canyon Drive and the Mustang crashed about the same time approximately 200 yards north of where the officer crashed. Officer Gibson was pronounced dead at the scene.

DDA Anthony Orlando prosecuted the case for our office and was successful in convicting the driver of the Mustang, Durjan Gray, of second-degree murder, along with felony evading a peace officer causing death, and DUI vehicular manslaughter. The jury also found true various special allegations, including that the victim was a peace officer. The defendant was sentenced to 32 years to life.



People v. Hunter (Western Region)

On the morning of November 4, 2009, a man was found shot to death inside the sleeper portion of a tractor-trailer he drove for his job. Homicide detectives determined that the victim did two life insurance policies through the trucking company for which he worked totaling \$225,000, which would double in the case of a murder, increasing to \$450,000.

In late 2011, the man's stepdaughter provided detectives with further information that ultimately led to her mother Lorraine Hunter's arrest and the filing of a murder charge. Along with the \$450,000 life insurance policies through the victim's employer, there was another active policy in the amount of \$750,000 that had been applied for by the defendant, who forged her husband's signature, about six months before the murder. Jurors found the defendant guilty of murder and found two special circumstances true: lying in wait and that the murder was committed for financial gain. The jury later recommended that the death penalty should be imposed following the penalty phase. Deputy District Attorney Will Robinson prosecuted the case.



People v. Contreras (Mid-County Region)

The defendant, David Rey Contreras, was convicted in 2017 following three brutal murders in Southwest Riverside County. The conviction arose out of the December 2012 murder of a man whose body was found in a Perris field and the February 2013 murders of a woman and her daughter in Nuevo. All three murders were completely random and occurred while the victims were walking in public areas. The defendant had no previous connection to any of the victims. Following Senior Deputy District Attorney Daniel DeLimon's successful prosecution, the jury recommended the death penalty for these heinous murders.

photo courtesy The Press-Enterprise

Cold Case Team

When District Attorney Mike Hestrin took office in 2015, he reestablished the Cold Case Unit. This unit works closely with investigators from law enforcement agencies around the county to tackle unsolved homicides that are more than five years old.



Deputy DA Samah Shouka

People v. Woods

One such case involved a 1992 death of a 45 year old woman who was found deceased in her Riverside apartment. The perpetrator fled the scene as police arrived. The woman was found bound, beaten, strangled, and the floor doused with gasoline. Due to a lack of evidence, this murder remained unsolved. Then, in 2011, detectives re-opened the case and matched DNA found under the victim's fingernails to Leonard Woods.

The District Attorney's Office charged Woods with murder and trial began in January of 2016. Senior Deputy District Attorney Samah Shouka worked tirelessly to bring justice to the victim 24 years after this heinous crime was committed. The jury quickly convicted Woods of first-degree murder after only 40 minutes of deliberation, thanks to the stellar work of DDA Samah Shouka. In August of 2016, Woods was sentenced to 26 years to life, closing the door on this cold case.

Gang Unit

During his first year in office, District Attorney Mike Hestrin joined forces with law enforcement officials to brainstorm new and effective mechanisms by which to combat the problem of gang-related violence and drug trafficking in Riverside County. Their shared goal was to find effective ways to reduce the number of violent crimes, dismantle criminal street gangs, lower the amount of dangerous weapons and firearms in the community, and reduce drug sales and human trafficking.

These goals remained a top priority in both 2016 and 2017. Our office put this vision into action by spearheading several large-scale operations targeting known gang members, including Operation Desert Impact and Operation Valley Vigilance. Each operation involved an effective collaboration of law enforcement personnel from many different agencies, working together to enhance the safety of the residents of Riverside County.

In the courtroom, our Gang Unit is highly successful in obtaining convictions and locking up gang members for their brutal crimes and gang-related activities.

People v. Dion King

On the evening of October 31, 2017, the victims were at a local market off University Avenue in the City of Riverside. The defendant went into the same market, then walked outside and got into a vehicle driven by a friend. The defendant's friend drove the vehicle out of the parking lot and later made a U-turn and headed back towards the market. As the vehicle drove by, the defendant fired multiple rounds from a .38-caliber firearm in the direction of the victims who were in front of the market. A police officer, who was nearby, was able to track down the defendant's vehicle, and the defendant was arrested. The defendant, a known gang member out of Los Angeles County, stated he believed the victims were rival gang members and believed they were armed, so he shot at them. The jury convicted the defendant of multiple felonies including two counts of attempted murder, along with various enhancements for using a firearm and inflicting bodily injury.

Coachella Gang Injunction

On February 25, 2016, DA Mike Hestrin announced that he was seeking a civil gang injunction against a violent criminal street gang based in the Coachella Valley. The injunction prevented members of the gang from engaging in specifically enumerated gang-related activities within a "safety zone" drawn out by the injunction. The injunction created a mechanism by which an individual who continued to engage in the prohibited activity could be sued in civil court or even arrested for violating the terms of the injunction. The goal: force members to either leave the gang or leave the area. The operation successfully targeted over 100 locations with the help of over 500 members of the law enforcement community.



Felony Prosecution Unit

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office deploys teams of prosecutors to handle a wide array of general felony cases in the Felony Prosecution Unit (FPU). Such crimes include assault, battery, robbery, burglary, criminal threats, grand theft auto, and attempt murder. Each FPU team handles their assigned cases in a single courtroom from arraignment to jury trial, creating a streamlined and efficient process. Teams are staffed with several deputy district attorneys, a senior trial team leader, and a Managing Deputy District Attorney. The experienced trial team leaders are tasked with attempting to resolve cases at an early stage of the proceedings in order to both seek justice and conserve valuable judicial and prosecution resources at the same time.

People v. Jonnabeth Morales

The victims were parked in the area of Hacienda Drive and Miracle Hill Road in Desert Hot Springs when a car approached them. Inside the vehicle were three armed men. The men inside the vehicle said "this looks like Pablo's car" to the victims. The victims replied that it was not Pablo's car, but rather belonged to one of them. The defendant responded by throwing a brick through the windshield of their car, shouting "I'm going to light this car up!" The defendant's vehicle then drove away. As the victims were about to leave, the defendant returned and held them at gunpoint, demanding that the victims give him their cell phones so they could not call the police. The defendant then fled the area a second time. The victims drove to a local convenience store where they were able to call the police. Deputy District Attorney Jeremiah Johnson prosecuted the case and obtained a guilty verdict for two counts of robbery and two counts of felony dissuading a witness. The jury also found true that the defendant used a firearm during the commission of the offenses. The defendant was subsequently sentenced to 22 years in state prison.

SACA Team

A dedicated team of skilled senior deputy district attorneys and investigators make up the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse (SACA) Team. This team prosecutes cases of sexual crimes against both adults and children, including human trafficking, as well as physical abuse and neglect of minors. This highly specialized team works alongside the Sexual Assault and Felony Enforcement (SAFE) team, a multi-agency task force consisting of deputy district attorneys and federal and local law enforcement who investigate and prosecute cases involving Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC). The SAFE team also pursues charges against convicted sex offenders who fail to register or update their address pursuant to Penal Code section 290.

People v. Morasch

From 2005 to 2009, and from 2013 to 2014, the defendant offered employment, lavish gifts, and housing to two runaway, underage boys at his home in Aguanga. At his home, defendant repeatedly sexually assaulted the victims, threatened them with violence, plied them with drugs, and told them he would kill them or out them as homosexuals if they exposed the activities taking place. Following one sexual encounter, one of the boys attempted to flee the home but the defendant grabbed a handgun and fired a shot over the boy's head. When the boys reported to police, the defendant fled to Sacramento and took police on a high-speed chase. Once in custody, the defendant conspired to murder both boys. In November 2017, the defendant was convicted of all charges and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.





Deputy DA Tara Urban and Chief DDA Gerald Fineman

People v. Vanderwood

The defendant and the victim in this case had been married about 10 years. On August 23, 2014, the victim returned home after a trip to Temecula with some girlfriends. The defendant then began yelling and threatening the victim. The defendant followed the victim upstairs, where he attacked her. During the attack, he forced her face into a pillow, strangled her with one hand several times, and then strangled her with both hands, plugged her nose, and placed her in a chokehold. She described to authorities that, when he strangled her while lying down, she could not breathe, she felt her eyes roll back into her head, and everything became “foggy.” While in a separate chokehold, she described becoming dizzy, lightheaded, and having blurred vision. During the assault, which lasted more than 20 minutes, the defendant also threatened to break her bones and bent her fingers back, causing what the victim described as “tortuous” pain.

This is believed to be the first case in California (and possibly the nation) in which expert testimony established torture by strangulation. Deputy District Attorney Tara Urban prosecuted this case and convicted the defendant of torture and other domestic violence charges. The defendant was sentenced to life in prison. While there may have been defendants convicted of torture by strangulation in cases where a victim lost consciousness or received broken bones, this case was unique in that neither happened to this victim.

Domestic Violence Team

Domestic Violence is not just a crime to the person attacked, it affects children and extended family members as well. Each day we are learning more and more how domestic crime can have horrific effects for generations to come. Our office has been a leader in prosecuting Domestic Violence crimes for decades. The unit was first created in 1995. Chief Deputy District Attorney Gerald Fineman is a nationally recognized expert in Domestic Violence crimes, having taught at the local, state, and national levels.



DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 3 WOMEN
&
1 in 4 MEN

HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF (SOME FORM OF) PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER WITHIN THEIR LIFETIME?

#TAKE A STAND

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Organized Crime Unit

Traditional crime detection and suppression strategies have failed to keep pace with the realities of the contemporary, highly organized, violent and tech-savvy criminal organizations that plague our communities today. To effectively combat these criminal enterprises, District Attorney Hestrin reorganized the office to create the Organized Crime Unit - an elite unit of highly skilled and cross-designated local and federal Deputy District Attorneys and District Attorney Investigators to combat the proliferation of human trafficking and child pornography organizations and to dismantle violent criminal street gangs and major drug and weapon trafficking enterprises doing business in our county. By partnering with existing local, state and federal prosecution and law enforcement agencies and taskforces our results have been dramatic.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a violent crime that often takes advantage of children and adults who are trying to find a way out of a difficult set of circumstances, such as fleeing from an abusive home or escaping poverty. Human trafficking offenders are manipulative and abusive, taking advantage of victims while they are most vulnerable and convincing them, through violence or threats or psychological ploys, to submit to sexual exploitation and forced labor. Prosecuting these cases can be particularly challenging as often times the victims become convinced that their abductors are not taking advantage of them or enslaving them. Others may feel that they have nowhere else to turn, and that reporting these crimes will leave them even more destitute.

These kinds of criminal enterprises have been on the rise in recent years. To aggressively combat human trafficking, our office trained and assigned dedicated personnel to investigate and prosecute these types of cases.



People v. Yoder

In February of 2016, a Riverside County jury convicted John David Yoder of 10 felony charges, including lewd and lascivious acts on a child under 14, child procurement (persuading a child to commit a sexual act), human trafficking, conspiracy to produce child pornography, and harboring a fugitive. Yoder, a foster care provider and a special education teacher's assistant at a local high school, as well as several other men, including some in other states, were involved in a conspiracy to solicit underage boys for "modeling" and then give them money or gifts to pose in lewd photographs. Some of the boys were "groomed" over time and became victims of various sex acts. Yoder was sentenced to 24 years in state prison. Other co-defendants are still awaiting trial.

The Yoder case was a significant case of child sexual abuse and human trafficking investigated by the SAFE Task Force, involving collaboration with federal law enforcement personnel, and prosecution by deputy district attorneys in our Office's SACA unit. It was truly a team effort. At the time of the 2015 news conference announcing the charges, the assistant special agent heading the Homeland Security Investigations (HIS) in Riverside County called the filing of charges "a stellar example of federal, state, and local law enforcement partners joining together to bring down those who commit unconscionable crimes against children."



Supervising Inv. Matt Remmers, Deputy DAs Samantha Paixao and William Robinson

OPERATION

DESERT IMPACT JUNE 16, 2016



Operation Desert Impact was a nine-month criminal investigation by local and federal agencies targeting primarily weapons and drug trafficking happening in and around Desert Hot Springs.



Operation Desert Impact was conducted primarily by law enforcement officials from the Riverside County DA's Office Gang Impact Team and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Violent Crime Task Force.



Special agents from ICE were involved at locations where there were believed to be immigration violations. Special agents from HUD targeted individuals who have been charged by the DA's Office with perjury and grand theft by defrauding a housing program of a public housing authority.



The operation culminated June 16, 2016 with the service of 11 state and 11 federal arrest warrants at various locations in the city of Desert Hot Springs and surrounding communities. Throughout the investigation, a variety of weapons were seized. Those weapons included rifles, shotguns, semiautomatic handguns, and one rocket launcher.

GIT Team: Operation Valley Vigilance and Operation Desert Impact

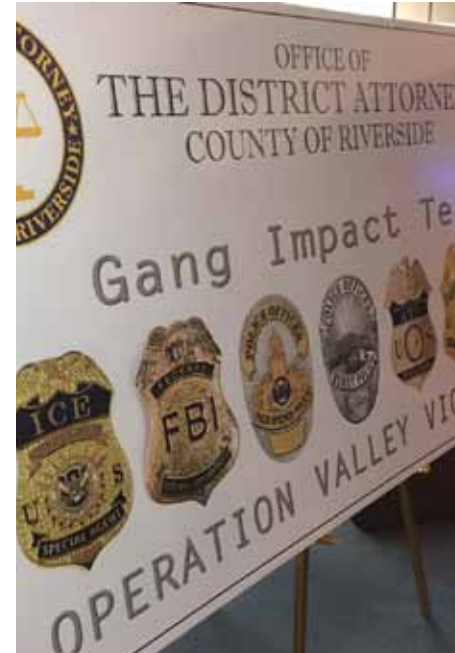
On June 29, 2017, nearly 400 law enforcement officers from local and federal agencies converged on 58 target locations in the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto and the surrounding unincorporated area of Riverside County as part of Operation Valley Vigilance, a seven-month ongoing investigation by the District Attorney's Gang Impact Team (GIT).

Operation Valley Vigilance resulted in the arrest of 47 individuals, the recovery of 77 weapons, and the seizure of more than four pounds of drugs. Following the take-down, the District Attorney thanked all participating law enforcement agencies and warned those targeted by the operation: "We will be patient, we will be organized, and we will be coming for you. If not today, soon."

A little over a year earlier, on June 16, 2016, GIT converged on the city of Desert Hot Springs in a highly coordinated multi-agency effort to clean up its streets. Operation Desert Impact was a nine-month criminal investigation by local and federal agencies targeting drug and weapons trafficking happening in and around Desert Hot Springs. The operation culminated in the service of 11 state and 11 federal arrest warrants throughout the city and surrounding communities, and targeted 22 individuals many of whom were known gang members or gang associates of several criminal street gangs in the Coachella Valley. Operation Desert Impact resulted in the recovery of numerous weapons, including rifles, shotguns, semiautomatic handguns, and at least one rocket launcher.

The Riverside County District Attorney's Gang Impact Team is comprised of agents from the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation; the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations; U.S. Border Patrol; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General for Investigations; the FBI; the Hemet Police Department; and the Palm Springs Police Department.

Gang Impact Team operations like Valley Vigilance and Desert Impact are specialized, highly-coordinated investigations designed to target organized crime, wanted felons, and those trafficking weapons and drugs. GIT is an integral part of the District Attorney's promise to rebuild our streets by taking back communities riddled by crime and forcefully eliminating the criminal enterprises that threaten the peace and safety of Riverside County residents.



Operation Valley Vigilance resulted in the arrest of 47 individuals, the recovery of 77 weapons, and the seizure of more than four pounds of drugs.



OPERATION
VALLEY VIGILANCE JUNE 29, 2017

Major Narcotics

The Major Narcotics Vertical Prosecution (MNVP) Unit works with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to root out some of the worst drug traffickers in our county. In 2016, our MNVP team seized over \$12 million worth of narcotics, including 276 kilos of cocaine, 47 kilos of heroin, and 1,382 pounds of methamphetamine. In 2017, our MNVP team seized over \$27 million worth of narcotics, including 970 kilos of cocaine, 38 kilos of heroin, 652 pounds of methamphetamine, and 10 kilos of fentanyl. These seizures, conducted in cooperation between local law enforcement agencies and federal drug enforcement task forces, resulted in the successful prosecution of multiple large-volume drug cases.



Butane Honey Oil

In February 2015, Selina Cervantes was sleeping in a room at the Knights Inn in Palm Springs. Her boyfriend, Alex Gonzales, was in the bathroom attempting to extract Butane Honey Oil (BHO) from marijuana for the first time and for his own personal use. Something sparked the extremely volatile and easily-ignited butane, causing it to explode. The room and those in it caught on fire. Alex was able to escape quickly and had second- and third-degree burns over 51 percent of his body. It took Selina less than a minute to get out, but even in that short time the explosion and fire resulted in second and third-degree burns over 97 percent of her body. A responding Palm Springs fire captain said he did not expect her to survive.

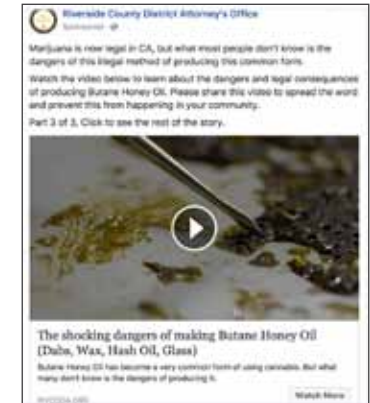
Knowing the illegal extraction of Butane Honey Oil (BHO) can cause serious injury or death to both the extractor and innocent bystanders near the manufacturing site, Deputy District Attorney Greg Rollins decided to do something about it. Working closely with defense counsel, DDA Rollins secured as a term of probation the cooperation of Selina and Alex to film a series of informational videos on the dangers of BHO extraction in the hope that no one else might suffer their same fate. Through the support of the Riverside County Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, funding needed to launch the District Attorney's BHO Public Awareness Campaign was secured. The resulting three-part video series is posted on our DA website and social media platforms. The work of DA Information Specialists Melody Hendrickson, Amy McKenzie, and John Hall to produce these videos was recognized by the California Association of Public Information Officials with a statewide award for Excellence in Public Information and Communications.



On July 18, 2017, a news conference was held announcing the release of the videos to the public and how we would immediately begin implementing them. Alex Gonzales and Selina Cervantes were at the news conference and participated in interviews with the many television, newspaper, and radio media present.



DA Mike Hestrin is interviewed by a Univision producer about our videos warning of the dangers of butane honey oil extraction for a future segment on Primer Impacto, a national news magazine show (pictured above). The three short videos can be found on our Facebook page @RivCoDA.



“You think it’s easy and just grab a couple things and you do it. It just blows up in an instant you don’t prepare for that.”

-Selina Cervantes

Social media campaign

A series of videos were created as part of a public awareness campaign. The videos were posted on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and the DA’s Office website. The videos reached 151,638 viewers with an engagement or post clicks of various types of slightly more than 25,000. Various tweets over several days about the video (not including posts about news stories on the topic) profited 8,520 impressions which are the number of times users saw the tweet on Twitter.

Legislative Activities to Improve Public Safety

In addition to the investigation and prosecution of cases and educational outreach efforts, the District Attorney's Office actively engages with our state legislators to sponsor, advance, and enact effective public safety laws promoting the safety of our community. In 2016 and 2017, the Legislature enacted several bills proposed by District Attorney Hestrin and sponsored by local legislators.

SB 883 (Roth) (2016 Session)

Enacted in the 2016 legislative session, SB 883 (Roth) conforms the punishment for a violation of a protection order issued after conviction of an offense involving domestic violence to the punishment for other similar protective orders.

"Vigorous enforcement of protective order violations has been shown to be an effective tool in both protecting victims and in ensuring offender accountability. Under current law, a defendant whose more serious offense lands them in state prison receives less of a consequence for violation of the protective order than a defendant on probation. This bill makes all violations of all criminal restraining orders punishable in the same manner." - Senator Richard Roth

SB 40 (Roth) (2017 Session)

Enacted in the 2017 legislative session, SB 40 (Roth) requires written notice to be furnished to victims at the scene of a domestic violence incident informing the victim that strangulation may cause internal injuries and encouraging the victim to seek medical attention. This bill also requires law enforcement agencies and the Attorney General to include the number of domestic violence incidents involving strangulation or suffocation in their existing reporting requirements.

"Identifying this form of violence provides an additional tool to those operating in the criminal justice system to protect victims as well as those studying domestic violence. This bill allows for a strangulation conviction to become an evidence based data point for tracking strangulation and better assess its role in domestic violence and homicide. Law enforcement can use this information in order to evaluate the potential threat of the offender as they respond to a scene." - Senator Richard Roth



Senator Richard Roth



Assemblywoman Marie Waldron

AB 4 (Waldron) (2017 Session)

Enacted in the 2017 legislative session, AB 4 (Waldron) allows an elections official, upon receipt of a properly executed affidavit of registration or address correction notice or letter, as specified, to notify the sender by text message or email that his or her voter registration information has been received and that he or she will receive a subsequent notification by mail in accordance with existing law.

"AB 4 will bring the voter registration process into the 21st century by authorizing the elections official to send a text message or email to the voter in addition to the postcard when a voter has updated their voter information. The goal of this bill is to ensure that all eligible voters are able to exercise their right to vote and that none are disenfranchised. It is vital to keep the voters in our state apprised of any changes made to their registration information and AB 4 accomplishes just that." - Assemblywoman Marie Waldron



District Attorney Hestrin in attendance at the California District Attorneys Association Legislative Day in Sacramento. Here our elected District Attorney meets with legislators on issues of concern to Riverside residents and works collaboratively on public safety legislation to make a real difference in our communities.

REBUILDING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

Public Integrity Unit

“Our Public Integrity Unit does the difficult and necessary work of rooting out corruption in our community. It is important to hold our community leaders to the highest standards in our continued efforts to deter political corruption in our county.” –DA Mike Hestrin, DA press release 5-12-17

The Public Integrity Unit (PIU) fulfills a vitally important role not only within our office, but in society as a whole. Those who are elected and appointed to serve the public trust do so at the will of the people. Often times, however, many fall short in this endeavor and abuse the offices to which they are entrusted. After taking office, District Attorney Hestrin encouraged the members of PIU to take up the mantle of protecting the public trust and to seek out corruption and abuses of power, wherever it may be. Just like justice is blind, so too must be our approach to holding our leaders accountable—regardless of who they are or the position they hold.



Beaumont Corruption Case

On May 17, 2016, the District Attorney’s Office announced that charges were filed against seven former City of Beaumont officials, including the city manager and police chief, in connection with a public corruption case in which nearly \$43 million was embezzled from public coffers. Six of the seven defendants in the City of Beaumont public corruption case have pled guilty, including the city’s former director of public works, the former police chief, and the former city manager. The pleas also involved restitution of over \$11 million to the City of Beaumont from assets previously frozen by the District Attorney’s Office. The pleas and restitution awards are important steps toward bringing justice to Beaumont and its residents.

photo courtesy The Press-Enterprise

People v. Orozco

On September 28, 2017, former Beaumont City Councilman Mark Orozco pleaded guilty to bribery and perjury. As a result, Orozco will be barred from ever holding public office.

After the death of a Beaumont City Councilmember, the Council was considering candidates to appoint to this seat. The bribery conviction resulted from a Grand Jury indictment that alleged that Orozco solicited a bribe of \$15,000 from developers. In exchange for the bribe, Orozco promised he would vote for the pro-development replacement candidate that they favored. The developers refused to pay the bribe and instead properly reported the crime to our Office.

Based on additional investigation, District Attorney’s Office investigators later discovered that Orozco inappropriately controlled the “Move Beaumont Forward PAC” and used it to support candidates for the November 2016 Beaumont City Council election. The investigation also revealed that Orozco directed the treasurer of Move Beaumont Forward to falsify various campaign forms.

Environmental Protection Team

The Environmental Protection Team is committed to protecting the people and lands of Riverside County. The team prosecutes crimes including the unlawful transportation, storage, or disposal of hazardous or waste materials that could threaten the environment or the health of the public, as well as violations of workplace safety laws that can result in death, disability, or serious hazard exposure to employees. The Environmental Protection Team aims to safeguard our land and residents by holding individuals accountable for endangering the natural environment of Riverside County by prosecuting criminal and civil cases for law violations. The District Attorney's Office leads a bi-monthly strike force meeting with local environmental protection agencies with an aim of increasing efficiency and coordinating efforts throughout the region.

O'Reilly Auto Parts

On Dec. 1, 2016, District Attorney Mike Hestrin, along with 50 other District Attorneys, announced that Missouri-based O'Reilly Auto Parts was ordered to pay \$9.87 million as part of a settlement of a civil environmental prosecution.

This was the culmination of a civil enforcement suit filed in Alameda County. The lawsuit claims that more than 525 O'Reilly stores throughout the state unlawfully handled, transported and disposed of used oil, used oil filters, and various hazardous waste and materials.

In Riverside County, not only was oil being improperly disposed of, but hazardous waste was being sent back to an O'Reilly distribution center in Moreno Valley from various Southern California stores. O'Reilly has 31 stores and one distribution center in Riverside County.

Under the final judgment, our office will receive its \$500,000 share of fines and the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health will receive \$108,000. Those funds will be used for future environmental protection investigations and prosecutions.



photo courtesy Yolo County

Consumer Protection Team

The Consumer Protection Team works with the specific aim of protecting the public from fraud by illegal or unfair business tactics such as false advertising, price-fixing, or deceptive sales practices. The District Attorney's Office strives to uphold consumer protection laws so consumers retain the value of their money when purchasing goods and services. The team serves Riverside County by prosecuting cases both civilly and criminally, seeking monetary penalties and jail time when appropriate.

People v. DeHoyos

In 2014 and 2015, Rodolfo DeHoyos concocted and implemented a convoluted scam designed to swindle thousands of small business owners by threatening to sue the owners for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, even though he was neither disabled nor denied access to their businesses. DeHoyos visited businesses, threatened to sue, and then asked for money in lieu of a lawsuit. Many of the business owners paid DeHoyos. Prosecutors from the Consumer Protection Unit were able to isolate 58 separate victims and pursue the case against DeHoyos. Just before trial, DeHoyos pled guilty to 143 counts. At his contested sentencing hearing, prosecutors worked diligently to convince the judge that the crimes committed by DeHoyos warranted custody time. At the sentencing hearing, the deputy district attorney brought forth many of the victims in a hearing that took two full days to complete. Thanks to the efforts of the Consumer Protection Unit, DeHoyos was sentenced to 20 years of custody, 40 additional years of mandatory supervision, and \$60,000 in restitution to the victims.



People v. Wells Fargo

On March 29, 2016, District Attorney Mike Hestrin announced the settlement of an \$8.5 million privacy lawsuit against Wells Fargo Bank. This civil suit also involved the Los Angeles, San Diego, Ventura, and Alameda District Attorneys' offices and the California Attorney General's office. The civil complaint alleged that Wells Fargo failed to timely and adequately disclose its automatic recording of phone calls with members of the public. In California, each party to a confidential conversation must be advised at the onset if a call is being recorded so that he or she can object or terminate the call if he or she does not wish to be recorded.

Wells Fargo and the prosecutors' offices worked cooperatively to implement changes in the bank's policies nationwide. As part of the settlement agreement, Wells Fargo also agreed to implement an internal compliance program to ensure that the policy changes are made. Under the terms of the court-approved judgment, Wells Fargo will pay civil penalties totaling \$7,616,000 and will reimburse investigative costs. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office will receive over \$1.2 million of those civil penalties and \$64,000 of the costs. All of the penalty funds will be used for future consumer protection work. In addition, Wells Fargo will contribute \$500,000 to two statewide organizations dedicated to advancing consumer protection and privacy rights.

Insurance Fraud Unit

“The successful prosecution of insurance fraud helps level the playing field for honest employers and business owners as well as keeping insurance premiums lower for consumers.” –DA Mike Hestrin press release 8-6-15

The Insurance Fraud Unit is a grant-funded collaborative team of prosecutors, paralegals, and Bureau of Investigation personnel who work directly with local law enforcement and the Department of Insurance. This team has had incredible success over the years in managing these complex and intricate cases. As part of this team, the Urban Auto Task Force has been particularly successful in obtaining results for the victims of these white-collar crimes. Our fraud attorneys are truly experts in their field. In 2017 alone, our Special Prosecution Section insurance fraud attorneys presented seven times at the California District Attorneys Association Fraud Symposium and provided trainings across the state at dozens of other fraud conferences and trainings for prosecutors and law enforcement officials. Also in 2017, our team handling workers’ compensation fraud cases earned the Law Enforcement Agency of the Year Award by the International Association of Special Investigative Units (IASIU) for the difficult and important work they do on behalf of the citizens of Riverside County.

Coachella Valley Body Shop Case

On February 7, 2017, seven people were arrested in connection with a large automotive insurance fraud scheme that led to a loss of more than a half-million dollars.

The case involves 40 defendants named on 36 criminal complaints encompassing more than 200 felony counts for crimes committed at seven auto body shops across the Coachella Valley. The scheme involved the staging of up to 40 false insurance claims from which payouts totaling \$560,492 were received from 10 different insurance companies. It is alleged that the owners of the seven body shops worked with employees and family members who posed as insurance consumers and filed fraudulent claims for collisions that either never happened or were staged.

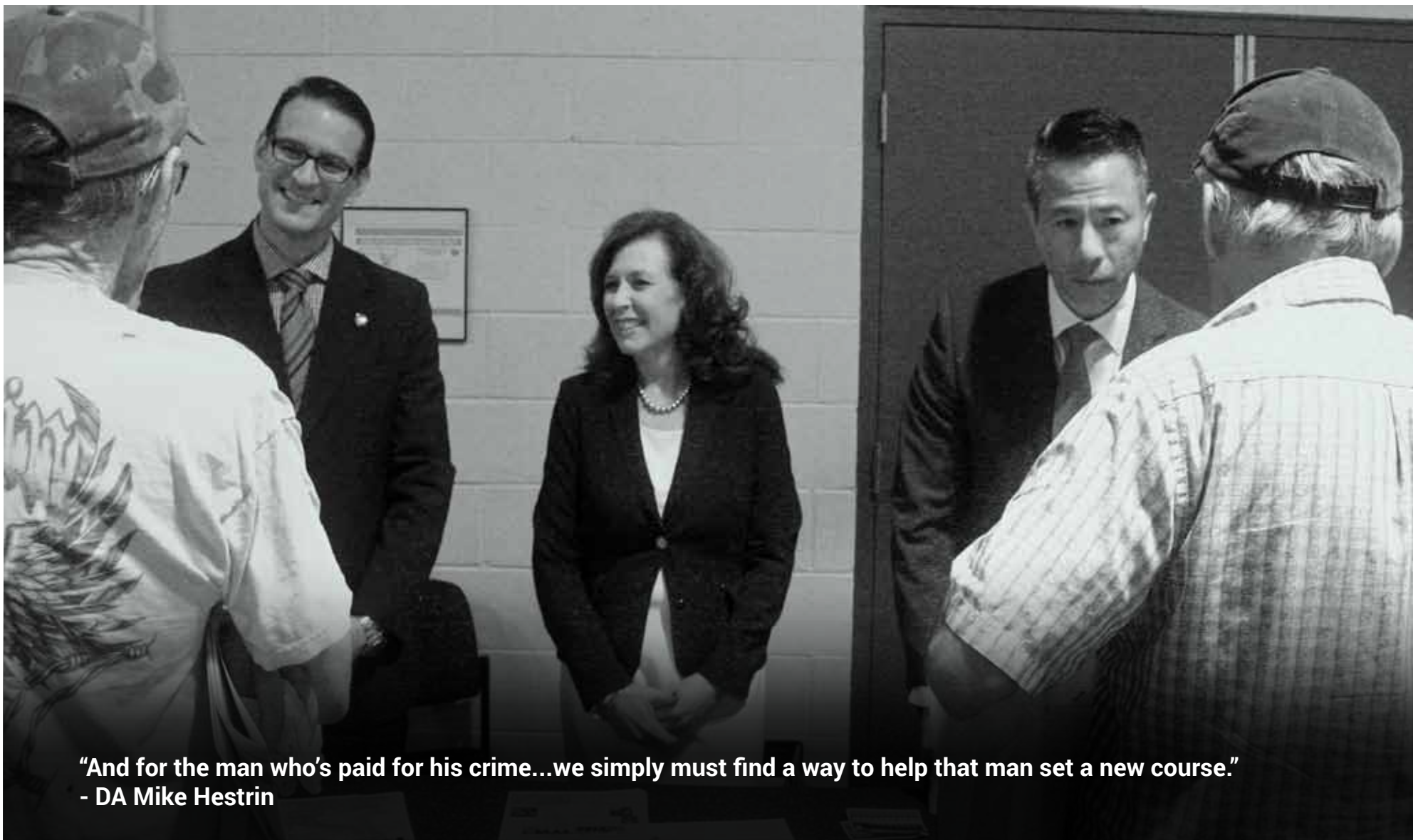
People v. Heidary

In May 2016, after a joint investigation by the District Attorney’s Office and the Department of Insurance, seven defendants were indicted by a Grand Jury for the fraudulent billing of over \$98 million, resulting in \$12.4 million being paid by various insurance companies. The criminal charges stem from the operation of a workers’ compensation medical mill, spearheaded by a Riverside chiropractor and involving other medical providers, which corrupted the workers’ compensation system to defraud insurance companies out of millions of dollars.

ID Theft

Identity theft is a crime in which the criminal can apply for and receive credit in someone else’s name and then default on the payments. Or, the criminal can take over an account and make changes to it, such as ordering additional credit cards or adding names to the account, to gain access to funds. After such an invasive crime, victims often feel helpless and with nowhere to turn to fix the pervasive effects of this life-changing crime.

District Attorney Mike Hestrin rededicated our office to combatting the ongoing plague of identity theft. While our Office had an identity theft unit for a number of years, it was previously disbanded. Recognizing that these types of cases require specific skills and an attention to detail, along with assisting victims of these crimes directly, District Attorney Hestrin announced that he would reconstitute this unit to accomplish these goals.



**"And for the man who's paid for his crime...we simply must find a way to help that man set a new course."
- DA Mike Hestrin**

COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE

Collaborative Courts Unit

Our Collaborative Courts Unit is comprised of several prosecutors whose aim is to work alongside our criminal justice partners to ensure that we are not only prosecuting vigorously—but also intelligently. Long gone are the days of a one-size-fits-all approach to criminal justice. Here in Riverside County, we have been at the forefront of the effort to identify the root causes of criminal behavior and prevent its reoccurrence. To that end, collaborative courts, such as Mental Health Court, Drug Court, and Veterans Court, were established to assist in this effort.

Often times, individuals commit crimes because they are afflicted with a mental health disorder, and other times, drugs and alcohol have led them to commit low-level offenses. The County's Mental Health and Drug Courts work to assist these individuals with their mental health and substance abuse problems to prevent recidivism. Likewise, our County's Veterans Court recognizes that veterans sometimes commit crimes due to the traumatizing effect of service-related stress disorders. Veterans Court seek to provide veterans with a broad array of services that can help them get back on track to being productive members of society. With this knowledge, our Collaborative Courts teams are working to stop criminal behavior before it becomes serious and get treatment to those who need it.

Homeless Court

Homeless Court began as a pilot program in Indio in 2015, and its inaugural class changed the lives of 50 individuals who successfully graduated the program. Since its inception, its graduates have taken advantage of an opportunity to make a real and significant change in their lives and become engaged, productive members of the community. The Homeless Court program allows misdemeanor offenders who are homeless to participate in a diversion program that provides mental health treatment, educational and job training programs, and structured support systems needed to move them into stable housing.

By drilling down to the core issues that drive generational cycles of crime and addiction, Homeless Court is reducing recidivism by addressing and treating the causes of underlying criminal conduct head-on. Helping individuals learn self-sufficiency and self-care, providing structure and incentive for individuals to make positive choices, and breaking the cycle of poverty, homelessness, and hopelessness, is just one way that the Riverside County District Attorney's Office is meeting the challenge of reaching at-risk and vulnerable populations.

Building on the success of this innovative pilot program, the District Attorney's Office, along with our justice partners within the Collaborative Courts Unit, is currently working to establish a similar program uniquely tailored to the needs of the western portion of Riverside County.



On October 20, 2017, Homeless Court celebrated the Community Outreach Program (CORP) Graduation at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission in the City of Indio. The event marked a turning point for twenty-two graduates who completed individually tailored rehabilitation, life skills, and job training and in return, received forgiveness for outstanding court fines and fees attached to criminal cases.



“We will seek a new and constructive relationship with the community.” - DA Mike Hestrin

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

COLLEGE ACADEMY

Provides potential law students, paralegals, and victim advocates hands-on experience with the different components of the justice system



CITIZENS' ACADEMY

Program aims to educate citizens about the life of a criminal case and answers questions regarding the administration of justice



LAW & LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Youth receive leadership training as well as hands-on training and experience in various forensic skills such as fingerprinting and crime scene investigation



"The College Academy program inspired me to pursue a career in law enforcement. Receiving a behind the scenes glimpse into the life of a prosecutor and paralegal gave me a jump start into my own law career." - Carol Najera

Here at the Riverside County DA's Office we believe that we have a responsibility to provide information and education to members our community.

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office **College Academy** serves as both a recruiting mechanism and a resource for community outreach. Students get to witness court proceedings, research cases side-by-side with their new mentors, and witness first-hand what goes into creating a successful case.

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office conducted its first **Citizens' Academy** during the Fall of 2016. The 10-week program immerses participants in the function of the DA's Office, from learning about the life-cycle of a criminal case to the intricate details of the DA's Division of Victim Services to theories on ethics and case-flow management. They learn the process of a trial from the perspective of the judge, prosecutor, and defense attorney in a hands-on tutorial right in the courtroom.

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office **Law & Leadership Academy**, the newest community outreach program created by DA Info Specialist Amy McKenzie, is a one-week, all-day program that includes character and team building activities to enhance their leadership skills. The Law & Leadership Youth Academy is offered in the summer to local incoming 8th and 9th grade students in Riverside County at no charge. The program branched out to our Eastern and Southwest/Mid-County regions in 2017.



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Internships & Public Academies

Public Academies

Our College Internship program is similar in many respects to the law clerk program. It gives students not yet in law school the chance to decide whether the law—and the District Attorney's Office—is something that may be in their future. A number of former interns are now proud to call themselves Deputy District Attorneys! Misdemeanor DDAs Sanja Stark and Jimmy Applegate are two of our very first interns who have returned home to Riverside County as DDAs.



DA Internships

District Attorney's Office Internships

Our office has become one of the leading offices in the state in terms of our internship and public academies.

Our Summer Law Clerk Externship has become one of the most coveted in California, where law students get the opportunity to work in a hands-on environment alongside other prosecutors. The summer caps off with our annual Closing Argument Competition where clerks compete to see who really will be Riverside's Next Top Clerk!



Also during the summer, we are pleased to welcome the winner of the Prosecutor of the Year from the Riverside County Mock Trial Competition. Riverside County's mock trial competition is widely known and often a strong competitor at both the state and national level. Each year, the top prosecutor from the competition joins our office for a summer internship.

Summer 2017
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE COLLEGE ACADEMY

Undergraduate Internship Program

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office is looking for motivated and enthusiastic undergraduate college students to participate in a 9-week unpaid internship. Students must be currently in college (including Sophomores, Juniors, or Seniors for the Fall). Students will gain hands-on experience dealing with the various aspects of the criminal justice system, while working closely with attorneys, paralegals, investigators or victim advocates. They will also attend workshops on criminal procedures, tour several law enforcement facilities, and much more.

Highlights

- Shadow attorneys, paralegals, investigators or victim advocates
- Meet attorneys, judges, District Attorney & Law Enforcement
- Visit the County Jail
- Hearcase Trials & Court Proceedings
- Attend court events
- Attend luncheon

Requirements

- Undergraduate student currently in college
- Must be currently attending or planning to attend law school or Criminal Justice
- Competitive application process, including writing an original statement and completing an interview

Applications

- Due by April 1, 2017
- The application is an electronic form
- www.rctda.org
- Application deadline: September 1st, 2017

For more information contact:
 Amy McManus, DA Information Specialist
 951-953-5400
 mcmanu@rctda.org

NEW! 11-05 100 700 011 www.rctda.org FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/RCTDA TWITTER: @rctda

Students get to witness court proceedings and research cases side-by-side with their mentors in the DA College Academy.

The Citizens' Academy is a 10-week program that immerses participants in the functions of the DA's Office.

Riverside County District Attorney's Office
2019 CITIZENS' ACADEMY

January 24 - March 8
THURSDAYS 9-9:00 PM
 APPLICATIONS DUE
OCTOBER 26, 2018

Get a look at the
Criminal Justice System...
FROM THE INSIDE

JOIN US for a ten-week seminar that provides an inside look at the function of the District Attorney's Office in Riverside County. Participants will receive a comprehensive tutorial regarding the judicial process with seminars led by Riverside law enforcement, investigating judges and other public safety officials.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
 Amy McManus, DA Information Specialist
 951-953-5400 amy@rctda.org

website: www.rctda.org facebook: www.facebook.com/RCTDA twitter: @rctda





DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

JUNTA COMUNITARIA

El fiscal de distrito del condado de Riverside Michael Hestrin le invita a asistir a la Junta Comunitaria Sobre Seguridad Publica de Temecula/Murrieta. Esta es su oportunidad de expresar sus inquietudes e ideas sobre la seguridad pública de su comunidad con su fiscal de distrito.

QUE: Junta Comunitaria Sobre Seguridad Publica de Temecula/Murrieta


DONDE: Temecula City Hall, 41000 Main St, Temecula, CA, 92590

CUANDO: 2 de Marzo de 6:30 - 8 p.m.


Le invitamos a que participe en este evento en compañía de su fiscal de distrito y funcionarios del orden público. Esperamos escuchar la voz de los residentes de Temecula/Murrieta.




Fiscal de Distrito
Michael A. Hestrin




facebook: @rivcoda.org



instagram: @rivcoda.org



twitter: @rivcoda.org



DA webpage: @rivcoda.org



District Attorney Mike Hestrin has worked tirelessly to engage the community directly about their concerns through town halls in the Coachella Valley, Temecula, Menifee and through social media.

We are always interested in hearing what you have to say about ways for us to improve and issues affecting you and your community

CONNECT WITH US

@RivCoDA.org

2016 P.R.I.D.E. AWARDS

PRIDE, our Program Rewarding Incentive of District Attorney Employees, honors attorney and non-attorney staff for demonstrating extraordinary responsibility, professionalism, innovation, productivity, dedication, attitude, and public service. Our countywide annual awards ceremony is held at no cost to taxpayers. The 33rd Annual P.R.I.D.E. Awards Banquet was held at the Miramonte Resort and Spa in Indian Wells on December 9, 2016.

AWARD	NAME
Prosecutor of the Year	Jennifer Garcia and Jon Brandon
Appellate Prosecutor of the Year	Michael Romney
Crime Prevention Prosecutor of the Year	Amir Alavi
Filing Prosecutor of the Year	Cheryl Singerton
Juvenile Prosecutor of the Year	Sarah Crowley
New Career Prosecutor of the Year	Kaitlyn Lasater
Paralegal of the Year	Linda Watkins
SPS Award of the Year	Michael Gavin and Doug Doyle
Investigator of the Year	Ryan Bodmer
Technician of the Year	Berenice Mausolf
Advocate of the Year	Wendy Bankston
Clerical Support of the Year	Anna Mendiola
Administration Employee of the Year	Ginika Ezinwa
Volunteer of the Year	Kyle Sugimura
Community Hero of the Year	Ron McGowan
DA Achievement/Leadership Award	Samah Shouka
Western Region - Group/Unit Award	NCP Unit - Eileen Agajanian, Jennifer Boyle, Maureen DuMouchel, Justin Feikert, Cormac Kehoe, Alex Khoury, Sandra Kim, Kaitlyn Lasater, Jon Marshall, Kevin Miller, Niki Olson, Gary Polk, Matt Stong, Sam Taloa, Ivonne Cortez, Enrique Maciel, Ed Ramirez, Margaret Swank, Michelle Gonzalez, Steffanie McCoy, Jane Gick, Danielle Espinoza, Kelly Lapaj, Sybil Magturo, Erin Olivarria, Rachel Parsons, Christina Perez, Jenny Sandoval, Jose Sandoval and Gaby Torres
Eastern Region - Group/Unit Award	Coachella GIT - Lauren Donovan, Kristi Kirk, Kirsten Seebart, Kristal Sandoval, Jessica Bello, Chuck Cervello, Ryan Monis and Eula Plaza
Southwest/Mid-County Group/Unit Award	Banning Clerical Staff - Mary Alvarez, Lydia Bolland, Diana Guerrero, Jennifer Peters, Anna Purinton and Bronwen Vasquez



2017 P.R.I.D.E. AWARDS

The 34th Annual P.R.I.D.E. Awards Banquet was held at the Wilson Creek Winery in Temecula on February 23, 2018.

AWARD	NAME
Prosecutor of the Year	Elan Zektser
Lifetime Achievement Award	Elise Farrell
Misdemeanor Prosecutors of the Year	Brian Ferguson and Sterling Winchester
SPS Prosecutors of the Year	Matt Murray and Erika Mulhere
SPS Award of the Year	Dave Jones and Matt Borden
Paralegal of the Year	Esperanza Garcia
Investigator of the Year	Jose Guerrero
Technician of the Year	Lisa Vinton
Advocate of the Year	Sherri Marcus
Clerical Employee of the Year	Misty Lara
Community Hero of the Year	Crisis Response Team - Patty Cardenas, Katie Gilbertson, Jeanette Hunter, Monica Kincade, Carla Aguilar, Donna Carper, Missy Castillo, Barbara Dreis, Kim Franklin, Rosa Gutierrez, Melissa Hernandez, Sherri Marcus, Lori Markin, Kristin Merrill, Karina Meza-Vazquez, Alex Morales, Julio Perez, Cammie Sohm, and Ajaypal Virk
DA Leadership Award	Crime Prevention Unit - Gerry Lopez, Hunter Taylor, Amir Alavi, Evelyn Essenwanger, Kristi Hester, Stacie Mathews, Vanessa Romero, Kacey Sutton, Sharon Shuster, Mike Tripp, Hawlee Valente, and Jasmine Marquez
DA Achievement Award	Appellate Unit - Ivy Fitzpatrick, Alan Tate, Robert Hightower, Natalie Lough, Don Ostertag, Michael Romney, Kirsten Seebart, Samara Silverman, Laura Watts, Esperanza Garcia, Jessica Ramirez, and Kelly Hulen





YEAR IN PHOTOS: 2016-2017

The People in our organization are our most valuable asset. Our core values reflect our commitment to hold the personal dignity of each individual inviolate and to work as a team, with genuine caring and encouragement of both diversity of thought and unity of action.

The daily, often grim work carried out by our employees for the cause of justice can mean long days and hard work with infrequent thanks. The bonds we forge through this shared passion last a lifetime and often transcend the workplace.





It was a happy homecoming when we surprised Deputy DA Bryan Boutwell with a visit from his son, Kyle, who Bryan had not seen for more than a year, while he served overseas with the U.S. Navy.





OFFICE STATISTICS

The District Attorney's Office has nearly 700 attorneys, investigators, victim service advocates, technicians and support staff, which serve the nearly 2.3 million residents across the vast 7,300 square miles that make up Riverside County – the 10th largest county in the United States.

We prosecuted nearly 100,000 criminal cases and several civil cases in the last two years, and we are the fourth largest District Attorney's Office in the state.

Supervisor Marion Ashley, District 5
 City of Banning
 Banning Police Department
 City of Beaumont
 Beaumont Police Department
 Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, District 4
 City of Blythe
 Blythe Police Department
 California Department of Justice
 California Highway Patrol, Inland Division
 City of Cathedral City
 Cathedral City Police Department
 City of Calimesa
 City of Canyon Lake
 City of Coachella
 City of Corona
 Corona Police Department
 City of Desert Hot Springs
 Desert Hot Springs Police Department

City of Eastvale
 Chief Probation Officer Mark Hake
 Public Defender Steven Harmon
 Interim Fire Chief Daniel Talbot
 City of Hemet
 Hemet Police Department
 City of Indian Wells
 City of Indio
 Indio Police Department
 Supervisor Kevin Jeffries, District 1
 City of Jurupa Valley
 City of La Quinta
 City of Lake Elsinore
 City of Menifee
 City of Moreno Valley
 City of Murrieta
 Murrieta Police Department
 City of Norco

County Executive Officer George Johnson
 City of Palm Desert
 City of Palm Springs
 Palm Springs Police Department
 City of Perris
 City of Rancho Mirage
 City of Riverside
 Riverside Police Department
 Riverside Community College Police Department
 Riverside County Fire Department
 Riverside County Probation Office
 Riverside County Sheriff's Department
 City of San Jacinto
 Sheriff-Coroner Stan Sniff
 Supervisor John Tavaglione, District 2
 City of Temecula
 UCR, Police Department
 Supervisor Chuck Washington, District 3
 City of Wildomar

SPECIAL THANKS

We are grateful to all the Riverside County criminal justice agencies who, without their collaboration, dedication, and professionalism, the work of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office would not be possible.



This report has been created and prepared by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office

EASTERN REGION

Indio

82995 Highway 111
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 863-8216

Blythe

220 North Broadway
Blythe, CA 92225
(760) 921-7878

SOUTHWEST/MID-COUNTY REGION

Murrieta

30755-D Auld Road, 3rd Floor
Murrieta, CA 92563
(951) 304-5400

Banning

135 North Alessandro
Banning, CA 92220
(951) 922-7130

WESTERN REGION

Riverside

3960 Orange Street
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 955-5400

Juvenile Office

9991 County Farm Road
Riverside, CA 92503
(951) 358-4140

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