



ROD PACHECO
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
PUBLIC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

A VICTIM'S VOICE WILL BE HEARD

DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROD PACHECO INTRODUCES NEW EXTERN PROGRAM

GANG MEMBER SENTENCED FOR MURDER

On August 13, 2009, Judge Randall White sentenced Indio gang member Jose Jonathan Ocampo to 92-years to life in prison for murder and attempted murder with enhancements of using a firearm during the commission of his crimes and of committing the crimes for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

"Gang members have few options in Riverside County," said Assistant District Attorney Sara Danville. "If they don't leave our county or abandon their lifestyle we will send them to prison for a very long time."

On August 3, 2003, Ocampo shot two rival gang members because they had entered into an area his gang claimed as their territory. One of Ocampo's fellow gang members approached the rival gang members to challenge them to a fight. Ocampo then crept up from behind and shot both of the rival gang members, killing one of them and paralyzing the other.

A witness told authorities that Ocampo shouted the name of his gang during the commission of his shooting.



The Riverside County District Attorneys Office has generated a new extern program for current law students.

The program offers current law students the opportunity to work, for class credit, side-by-side with Deputy District Attorneys in a range of fields from initial case research to assisting attorneys as they go through trial.

Developed in collaboration with 8 participating schools, including Loyola, Chapman and Whittier law schools, the District Attorney's Office offers qualified candidates unpaid positions with which they are able to gain invaluable work experience and insight into the life of a career prosecutor. The students, in turn, offer Deputy District Attorney's assistance with their current workload.

Given the current economic troubles, the program is dually beneficial for the District Attorney's Office as it comes in at no cost.

The program is also a tool for the District Attorney's Office to recruit new prosecutors and gives the office an opportunity to see the students in an office-setting rather than simply through an interview.

"With each new class of law students comes new ideas, new theories, and new vigor," District Attorney Rod Pacheco stated. "Recruiting prosecutors out of law school is one of the key components in building a career prosecutorial agency, and is one of the reasons that this District Attorney's office is one of the best in the nation."

The District Attorney's Office also has two other existing law clerk programs, one focused on third year law students who have already taken the bar exam and are awaiting bar results. These clerks are typically hired on as full-time Deputy District Attorneys once they pass the bar exam. The office also hires first and second year law students to work as law clerks each summer. The clerks work on a variety of different projects and gain useful insight into the inner-workings of the District Attorney's Office.

Seven students have already applied for and been accepted for the Fall extern program from California Southern, Chapman, Loyola and Whittier Law Schools.

SIGN THEFT BILL PASSES LEGISLATURE

Campaign signs being stolen in the heat of an election are commonplace and can cost campaigns a great deal of money to replace. The actions of those who steal them are considered criminal yet there is no law detailing how such actions are illegal.

Sign theft currently falls under general vandalism and there is no set guideline for prosecution or sentencing. As campaign signs are stolen and vandalized more and more, the need for such a law has become obvious.

For that reason, the District Attorney's Office has sponsored Assembly Bill 362, aimed at creating statutes for vandalizing political signs. The legislation, introduced earlier this year by Assemblymember Jeff Miller, offers a clear definition of a political sign as "any sign

advocating the election of a specific candidate for official office or advocating a position relating to a ballot or issues."

It sets the first offense as a misdemeanor and the second offense can carry a maximum penalty of up to one year in a county jail and fines of up to \$2,000 for anyone who willfully vandalizes campaign signs.

The bill also recognizes that signs can be removed for legal reasons and that a law enforcement officer, or a private property owner may remove signs for good cause - free of prosecution.

The legislation was passed through the both the California State Assembly and Senate and is currently awaiting Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's signature.



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RIVERSIDE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF GANG-EXECUTION MURDER

A Riverside County jury found a Riverside man guilty of first-degree murder for the 2004 gang-execution killing of Jorge Ortiz.

George Anthony Hernandez Jr, 33, was convicted on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009, of murder with a special circumstance of lying in wait. He was also convicted of conspiracy to commit a crime and soliciting to commit murder.

The same jury will now hear testimony in the penalty phase of the trial. Jurors will then decide whether Hernandez should be sentenced to death or life in prison without the possibility of parole.

On July 26, 2004, Hernandez and the victim left a Riverside bar together and Hernandez invited Ortiz to "check out his new Impala." Ortiz leaned into the car and Hernandez pulled a 9mm handgun and shot Ortiz through the top of his head. As the victim fell back, Hernandez shot him in the forehead, then three more times in the chest.

The investigation revealed the shooting was a gang hit at

the direction of either the Mexican Mafia or the Arlanza 13 criminal street gang in Riverside, of which Hernandez is a documented member. Ortiz was executed because he was believed to have been a snitch.

After Hernandez's arrest, investigators uncovered an illicit affair between Hernandez and a female sheriff's deputy who was assigned to the Robert Presley Detention Center where the defendant was housed. Through a series of letters and phone calls, Hernandez and the now-former deputy, Angela Parks, repeatedly professed their love for one another and Parks told him she would do whatever she could to help his case. There is evidence that Parks assisted Hernandez in a conspiracy to murder the witnesses against him in the Ortiz murder, as well as for her to smuggle methamphetamine into the jail for Hernandez.

Parks was arrested and is facing charges including conspiracy to solicit to commit murder. She was held to answer at a 2005 preliminary hearing and is still awaiting trial.

RIVERSIDE MAN CONVICTED IN 2007 DEATH

A Riverside man was convicted of involuntary manslaughter on Sept. 3, 2009, for the death of a 19-year-old after a fender-bender at a fast food restaurant.

Wiscowiche was driving a car that rear-ended another car on Oct. 21, 2007. Eric Means was a passenger in the car that was hit and got out to survey the damage. Because the victims of the fender-bender suspected that the other driver, Wiscowiche, was not going to exchange insurance information, Means walked to the rear of Wiscowiche's car to take a photo of the license plate with his camera phone.

Wiscowiche then punched Means in the head with such

force that he fell and hit his head on the ground, knocking him unconscious. Means soon regained consciousness, but later complained of pain and was taken to a hospital where he died as a result of hemorrhaging caused by blunt force trauma to his head.

"I am pleased that the jury was able to see that this defendant's unprovoked attack resulted in the tragic loss of life for an innocent victim," District Attorney Rod Pacheco said. "This case demonstrates that those in our community who seek to attack and victimize innocent people will be held accountable for the irreparable damage they cause."

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Walk-A-Mile

Fall 2009

This annual event is aimed at raising awareness of domestic violence and its impact on the community. Marking October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the events will begin with a ceremonial walk and comments from DA Rod Pacheco, representatives from local police agencies, and domestic violence survivors. Three events will take place in each region of the county. For more information about the event, please visit the District Attorney's website at <http://www.rivcoda.org/Programs/wam09.pdf>.

College Academy

Winter 2010

The District Attorney's student intern program allows college-age students considering a career in law, paralegal studies, or victim services to gain hands-on experience each summer and winter. Students will tour other law enforcement agencies, learn courtroom practices and procedures, see how to prepare for a trial and assist on active cases when paired with a mentor. The next academy begins in January 2010, and applications are currently being accepted. Visit <http://www.rivcoda.org/programs.html>.