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Justice Journal

Sacramento County
District Attorney's Office

MARCH 2018



As District Attorney, I am committed to providing citizens information about this office and insight into what we do. I hope these [newsletters](#) help to educate our community on the dedicated work we are doing both in the courtroom and in the community.

This newsletter will highlight the core function of the District Attorney's Office - seeking justice on behalf of victims of crime. Unfortunately, people are victimized by crime every day in our community. These crimes include homicide, gang violence, domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, theft and cybercrimes. We are also seeing horrific cases of animal cruelty.

We not only prosecute these offenders, we are working to prevent new victims through task forces including a [Human Trafficking Task Force](#) and [Animal Cruelty Task Force](#).

Every April during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we join communities across the country in honoring victims for their courage and commitment to justice. Our office will hold the [Annual Outstanding Citizen Award Ceremony](#) as well as participate in the [Crime Victims United of California March on the Capitol](#).

Every May during National Police Week, we will also join the country in honoring the men and women of law enforcement. The [Sacramento Police and Sheriff Memorial](#) will hold its annual remembrance ceremony for officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice and their families.

I will also host our [Annual Public Safety & Community Appreciation Luncheon](#) to celebrate public safety and the community as well as discuss how we can continue working together to keep our region safe. To attend and support this event, please visit www.sacda.org/communityrelations/public-safety-event/.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and wish everyone a safe and happy spring season. - District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert

DA Victim Advocates Help Las Vegas Shooting Victims...

Anger, Fear, Frustration—these are emotions victims of crime may feel. They are thrust into the criminal justice system not by choice, but by circumstance. Many crime victims may suffer physical, emotional or financial harm. Others may be intimidated by a confusing criminal justice system.

At the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, [Victim Witness](#) advocates provide crisis counseling, orientation to the criminal justice system, community referrals, assistance with applying for victim compensation, a support group for family members of homicide victims and many other services. Assistance and information is available in several different languages.

Our team of advocates, all with master's degrees in social work or related field, help victims and witnesses navigate the court system. They also advise them of available resources, and provide emotional support and information throughout the justice process.

This past year, victim advocates Dana Burns and Michelle Husbands joined other advocates from across California in Las Vegas to assist victims of the horrific mass shooting.



DA Victim Advocate Dana Burns second in from left, DA Victim Advocate Michelle Husbands third in from right

Continued

* The bold and underlined text are links to more information that can be found at www.sacda.org.

Here, they share their experience:

How long were you in Las Vegas? What were you asked to do?

Dana Burns (DB) and Michelle Husbands (MH)- We arrived three weeks after the massacre and spent one week providing information on housing/tenant's rights, lost driver's license replacement, employment legal assistance and immediate financial services.

Victim advocates were paired with a person, a couple, a family...right after the intake/screening process by Red Cross volunteers. Victims/survivors had to somehow show attendance at the concert, their attachment to a person who was at the venue or that he/she was working the event on the night of the mass shooting to be eligible for services. Because many people lost purses, ID's, cell phones, concert tickets, plane receipts or sign in logs proving employment with food, merchandise and security vendors—a seemingly simple task was not.

DB- Every person I met with was eager to tell their personal story – in great detail – about what he or she felt, heard, smelled, thought or saw during the time shots were being fired and after they stopped. I heard accounts of people trying to help other people, blood all over, feelings that life was over and sending thoughts of love for children, family and friends into the sky.

What, if anything, surprised you about the effort?

DB- I found each person's trauma symptoms to be remarkably similar. They had all survived an incredible, almost unfathomable incident of violence. They suffered from sleep disturbances, a feeling "that this is all a bad dream, but I can't wake up out of it," not feeling like going outside or into groups of people.

MH- I was surprised how many victims felt guilty about coming in for services because they were not physically injured. There was a lot of survivor's guilt.

Any lasting memories from your work in Las Vegas?

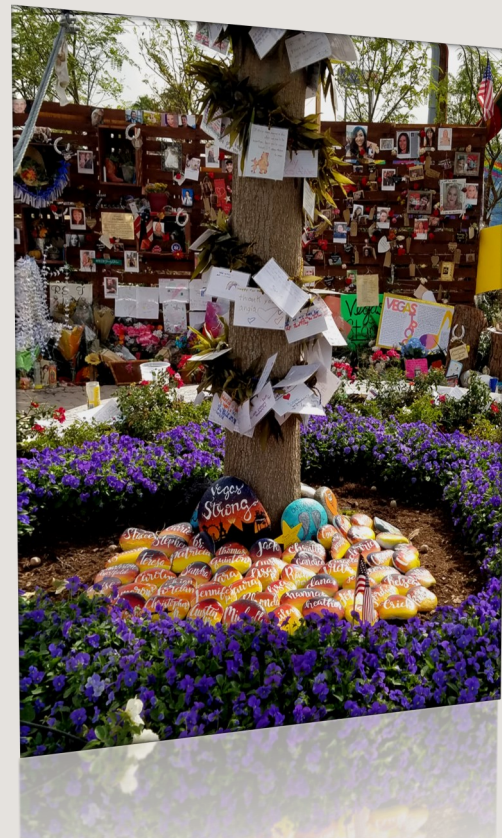
DB- After the shootings, I read in the local and national news of how the local people of Las Vegas really rallied to support their city and the victims. While riding in a taxi or in an Uber, drivers told me stories of picking up people after the shooting and how all the companies provided free rides for the first week.

People cared for and about each other. People were grateful and kind. People worked really hard. There was hope in the resilience of victims. There was pain, there was laughter. We were all in this life together.

MH- The victims and their stories. The level of gratitude from individuals who I met outside of the assistance center that were not directly impacted by the shooting. Once they knew why I was there, they thanked me repeatedly for coming to help their community. The camaraderie among the various staff, we all had one goal and that was to be of service.

Did You Know?

◇ For more than 27 years, the Victim/Witness Program coordinates a Holiday Drive where District Attorney employees donate new toys, new clothing and food to 15-20 families of victims, who would otherwise have very little joy during the holiday season.



After this experience, what is most helpful for victims of mass shootings? Any recommendations to victim advocates responding to such events?

DB- For the victims and families, I'd say keep going. Though what happened was terrible, and you had no part in its occurrence, it will take time, maybe lots of time, to figure out how you can feel safe again. We will listen, acknowledge your feelings, sit or stand beside you and even hold your hand if that is what helps you feel stronger. As human beings, we share your pain and also the power to make change – in ourselves or in our world.

MH- Every city should have a place identified as the staging area for a Family Assistance Center in case of a mass casualty incident, and point agencies for law enforcement and victim services identified in advance. Victims and their families repeatedly spoke about not knowing where to go, how to get information and having to filter through so much inaccurate information.

DB and MH- For the advocates, before leaving schedule an appointment with a counselor for when you return. While at the location, be flexible and follow the lead of those in authority, build in down time in order to decompress while there, if possible go with a partner from your job.

In the Courtroom & Beyond...

Cases of Interest

Pair Sentenced for Marijuana Robbery Ending in Murder

(Case #14F07830): On November 17, 2014, Vincent Amaya met with Shaquille Huston and Dayvon Stroupe to sell them marijuana. Huston and Stroupe attempted to rob Mr. Amaya of his marijuana. During the course of this robbery, Mr. Amaya was shot and killed.

A jury convicted Huston and Stroupe of first-degree murder with a special circumstance of committing the murder during the course of a robbery. Both defendants were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Defendant Convicted of Domestic Violence, Animal Cruelty (Case #15F04204): On July 4 and 5 of 2015, Edward Reid beat the victim with a wooden sword for hours. Reid threatened to kill the victim as he struck her repeatedly in her head and neck. The victim suffered significant bruises all over her body and face. She also suffered a non-displaced fracture of her left ulna, and X-rays showed she had prior facial fractures. When the victim reported the attack to police, she disclosed several prior unreported domestic violence incidents. In those assaults, Reid punched the victim in the eye and beat her, breaking her wrist. Officers went to Reid's home and located a loaded rifle with a live round of ammunition in the chamber and nine rounds in the gun. They found 60+ more rounds of ammunition, two power rifle scopes, two swords and two metal pipes. Animal Control was called when seven emaciated dogs were discovered in the home. The dogs were extremely underweight, dehydrated and suffered from irritated and inflamed paws and paw pads. X-rays showed their small intestines had signs they had little to no food for at least several days and they had eaten non-food items.

A jury convicted Reid of domestic violence with a deadly or dangerous weapon and personally inflicting great bodily injury under circumstances involving domestic violence. He was also convicted of battery with serious bodily injury, felon in possession of a firearm with a prior, felon in possession of ammunition and six counts of animal cruelty. Two prior strikes for robbery and assault with a deadly weapon/personal use of a firearm were also found true. Reid was sentenced to 54+ years to life in prison.

Defendant Sentenced for Sexual Assault & Abuse of Elderly Victim (Case

#15F02008): James Harold Garner was the live-in caregiver of the 65-year-old victim, who had survived a stroke and suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The victim had significant issues with mobility, strength, communication and memory. On March 29, 2015, Garner went into the victim's room where he repeatedly raped and committed other acts of sexual assault against the victim.

A jury convicted Garner of multiple counts of rape by force and forced oral copulation with allegations the crimes were against an elderly victim on all counts. Garner was also convicted of elder abuse. He was sentenced to 45 years in prison.

(for more information on Elder Abuse, view/download brochure)

For more cases of interest, visit www.saca.org/media/latest-news.



Did You Know?

♦ The DA's Office partnered with the Public Defender, Probation and the Court to create a new collaborative court targeting high-risk repeat DUI offenders. Called the Driving Under the Influence Treatment Court, the goal is to increase public safety by reducing recidivism among DUI repeat offenders, which will decrease alcohol-related collisions, injuries and fatalities.

Early Prison Releases



In 2015, the [Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#) began a [new parole determination process](#) after a federal court ordered California to reduce prison overcrowding. As a result, inmates characterized as "nonviolent second-strikers" became eligible for early parole consideration. In November 2016, [Proposition 57](#) was then passed with the promise that "nonviolent" inmates who "turn their lives around" in prison could also earn early parole under a new "nonviolent parole review."

The Board of Prison Hearings (BPH) determines whether these inmates would pose an unreasonable risk to commit violent crime. The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office takes an active role in evaluating these cases.

Continued

"I feel it is important for the public to be aware of the so-called nonviolent offenders being released early from prison onto our streets and into our neighborhoods." - District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert

For inmates who appear to pose a danger to the public, the office writes opposition letters to BPH.

Many inmates granted early prison release have violent and lengthy criminal histories. A few recent noteworthy early releases include:

Murderer Who Commits Prison Assault Causing Great Bodily Injury (Alfredo Casillas - Case #93F01877): In 1988, Casillas was convicted of second-degree murder with the use of firearm enhancement. He was sentenced to 16 years to life in prison. While in prison in 1992, Casillas and another inmate attacked a third inmate at Folsom Prison. They used inmate-manufactured knives to slash the victim multiple times. The victim suffered slash wounds to the back of his neck, his left shoulder, nose and a 9-inch cut to his stomach. Casillas was convicted of assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury. He was sentenced to 7 years in prison consecutive to the 16 years to life sentence he was already serving for murder. In 1995, Casillas was convicted of being a prisoner in possession of a weapon. Casillas' murder conviction and criminal record demonstrate his propensity for violence. The Board of Prison Hearings found this inmate to be a nonviolent offender who does not pose an unreasonable risk of violence to the community and granted early release on December 29, 2017. [Opposition Letter](#)

Validated Gang Member Accosts Elderly Man in Robbery (Brett Allen Evans - Case #15F00861): Evans is a validated member of the Ridezilla gang. He has a 2005 strike conviction for robbery. The 60-year-old victim in that case was accosted by Evans and his accomplice outside of a supermarket. While the accomplice threatened the victim with a gun, Evans stole the victim's money. Before leaving, the accomplice pistol whipped the victim. In 2009, Evans was convicted of accessory after the fact and was sentenced to 16 months in prison. The victim in this case was beaten and robbed. The victim identified Evans as one of the men who took part in the assault and robbery. In 2012, he was convicted of buying or receiving stolen property and was sentenced to 4 years in prison. In that case, Evans was the driver of a vehicle seen leaving the scene of a residential burglary. When he and his accomplices were stopped in the vehicle soon after, officers found items from the burglary in their possession. Evans was on Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) at the time of his committing offense. In his current case, Evans and other gang members participated in the residential burglary of a marijuana grow house. Gang members committing burglaries of lucrative "marijuana grows" are a frequent and alarming source of violent crime. As a gang member with violent prior felonies and a penchant for violating probation and parole, Evans has a criminal history spanning 12 years and numerous parole or PRCS violations. The Board of Prison Hearings found this inmate to be a nonviolent offender who does not pose an unreasonable risk of violence to the community and granted early release on December 11, 2017. [Opposition Letter](#)

For more information about inmates granted early prison release, visit www.sacda.org/early-prison-releases.

Marijuana, "Is it just Weed?" – Part 1

(From the perspective of Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney Natalia Luna, Community & Government Relations Bureau)

When Proposition 64 passed in 2016, adults 21 and over could start legally using recreational marijuana in California. As of January 2018, they could also legally buy it. This includes marijuana edibles, drinkables and smokables.

One would think the years of debate over the legalization of marijuana would now end, and the state would begin to reap the reward of tax revenue the legal sale of marijuana would generate.

Unfortunately, this is not yet the case. It has not become a panacea for California. In fact, the impact of marijuana on crime, our community and most importantly, our youth is evident more now than ever.

Young teenagers often say, "What's the big deal, it's just weed." Many of them believe everybody does it - including movie stars, athletes, relatives and rich people – and are still successful.

So, does everybody do it? Is it a big deal? Does it not impact our families and the community? As prosecutors, we live in the world that sees consequences so I had a strong suspicion to the contrary. I decided to walk the office halls and hear from various units to get their perspective.

A stop in the Homicide Unit gave me pause. In December 2017, we had 96 pending homicide cases -16 marijuana related and two involving defendants who smoked weed right before a homicide. So, close to 20% of our pending homicides are marijuana related!



Continued

In the Gang and Narcotics Unit, marijuana was also involved in several gang-related shootings or murders. About half of their cases involve marijuana use and sale/purchases.

Examples:

Salvador Fuentes, Joel Hernandez, Martine Romero & Gabriel Mota: The defendants were driving around smoking marijuana and actively looking to purchase more marijuana. They ran across a rival gang member and killed him.

Marius Oh & Gabrielle Eslinger: The victim had a small marijuana grow in his house. Eslinger drove Oh to victim's house. Oh broke into victim's house and robbed the victim at gunpoint for two bags of marijuana. Oh was shot and wounded by the victim's neighbor as Oh tried to flee the scene.

So why the crime? Legal marijuana has not reduced this criminal behavior. Since 2016, adults over the age of 21 have been allowed to grow a very small number of marijuana plants for personal consumption. Yet, this has done little to reduce black market sales, illegal marijuana grows or dispensaries. According to our local law enforcement agencies, there is said to be thousands of illegal grow houses in our neighborhoods. Single family dwellings are often converted into large scale grow operations.

Law enforcement has responded to dozens of homes where hundreds of plants, money and guns were located. Criminal organizations are also renting or buying houses, where they grow marijuana and ship it elsewhere. Since marijuana remains illegal in many states, smugglers take advantage of the patchwork of laws.



Bedrooms in Butane Honey Oil Fire

method uses butane, a highly flammable solvent. What is doubly concerning is there were at least five butane honey oil related explosive fires in our region so far in 2018.

In the Misdemeanor Unit, there has been a sharp increase in marijuana only driving under the influence cases. In the past, it was common to see marijuana combined with alcohol, illicit or prescription drugs. Now, there are many cases where marijuana is the only substance being detected on the toxicology analysis. It appears this trend has followed the legalization of marijuana along with the lack of a quantitative way to determine when someone is impaired by marijuana for the purposes of driving. Prosecutors have had to quickly learn how to successfully handle these cases.

There have also been a number of reports submitted for child endangerment involving marijuana. One of the trends is marijuana grows taking place in homes with children. These homes often contain chemicals, edibles that look like regular candy or other items dangerous to children.

As we proceed down this new path, we see how marijuana **"IS** a big deal." We need to be vigilant and do all we can to educate our citizens for a safe and healthy community.

Next Issue: Marijuana, "Is it just Weed?" Part 2: Impact on Youth

Butane honey oil is a marijuana concentrate that has a significantly higher **THC (the chemical compound that makes you high)** concentrate. A popular extraction



Kitchen Butane Honey Oil Fire



Did You Know?

- ◇ Prop 64 limits marijuana products to 10mg of THC per serving.
- ◇ Some products contain 200 to 1,000mg of THC, enough to send people to the ER with hallucinations, extreme paranoia and panic attacks.
- ◇ A hit of marijuana in the 1980s would be about 4% THC by weight—today, it's about 20%.
- ◇ You can't consume marijuana (in any form) in public places.
- ◇ Smoking marijuana where tobacco is prohibited is also illegal.
- ◇ Property owners/landlords can ban the use and possession of marijuana on their premises.
- ◇ Another law that took effect in January bans consumption of marijuana while driving or as a passenger in a car.
- ◇ The new law regulates how/where marijuana can be stored in a car, similar to the open alcohol container rules.
- ◇ Small doses of marijuana can slow a driver's reaction/decision times, and impairment may take an estimated 4+ hours to subside.
- ◇ It is illegal to transport any amount of marijuana by plane even if it's medicinal, including within the state and to other states that have legalized marijuana.

Sources:

- *[CA Department of Public Health](#)
- *[California Highway Patrol](#)
- *[California Office of Traffic Safety](#)
- *[TSA \(Transportation Security Administration\)](#)

Officer-Involved Shootings: Protocol & Investigation

Law enforcement officers serve a critical role in protecting the community. In doing so, they often face violent, unpredictable situations and may be faced with circumstances requiring them to use deadly force. Officers must only use such force when legally necessary and as prescribed by law. When deadly force occurs, society has a right to expect a complete and impartial examination of these incidents will be conducted.

The District Attorney's Office is responsible for prosecution of violations of California laws, including making criminal charging decisions in officer-involved incidents. In Sacramento County, when an officer shoots an individual causing injury or death, or uses force resulting in the death of the person in custody, the office conducts an independent review to determine whether the officer should be charged with a criminal offense. In this review, the District Attorney's Office does not consider issues of civil liability, tactics and departmental policies and procedures.

Experienced district attorney criminal investigators parallel investigations conducted by law enforcement. They are given access to witness interviews, the shooting or use of force scene and the evidence documentation and collection. The initial review of the incident is conducted by the Justice and Special Operations Unit. Every investigation is reviewed by senior executive management and by the District Attorney herself.

The District Attorney's Office looks to insure these inquiries are conducted in a fair and professional manner that will serve the interests of justice, the community, the involved officers, those persons injured and the families of those affected. The primary objective is to accurately, thoroughly and objectively investigate and review all relevant evidence. The final report only addresses whether the officers involved committed any violation of criminal law. As with any criminal case that comes to the office, the standard of proof employed is whether the office can prove, with competent, admissible evidence to a jury of twelve, the person is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Under the law and the office code of ethics, before charges are filed, the office must be sufficiently convinced a unanimous jury would find, after weighing the admissible evidence including the most plausible and reasonably foreseeable defense that could be raised at trial, that a crime was committed.

The office strives to complete this review process within 90 days of receiving all of the related reports and investigation materials. Once it is complete, the District Attorney's Office prepares a letter detailing the factual findings and legal analysis. This letter is published, posted on the office website and otherwise made available to the public.

To view reports on officer-involved shootings, investigation and review protocols and FAQs, visit <http://www.sacda.org/police-use-force/>.



In the Community...

Fallen Officers: Impact on Families, Law Enforcement, Community



DA Anne Marie Schubert
Speaking at Local Officer Memorial

District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert and other members of the office join the families of fallen officers, their law enforcement brothers and sisters as well as the entire community in honoring and remembering those who died in the line of duty. The District Attorney's Office is actively involved in local ceremonies as both professionals and members of this community.

As part of the District Attorney's Annual Public Safety & Community Appreciation event, DA Anne Marie Schubert also invites the [Law Enforcement Chaplaincy \(LEC\)–Sacramento](#) Executive Director Chaplain Mindi Russell to pay tribute and lead a moment of silence for the officers lost each year.

Known endearingly as “Chaplain Mindi” - the Justice Journal spoke to Mindi for her insight into the LEC's role when tragedy strikes.

What does your organization do?

The LEC is a first responder to first responders, and those they serve. We are around the clock trauma responders for any kind of crime, tragedy or crisis. We have about 150 volunteers who are post-trauma stress counselors. They are experts in helping people process trauma.

Continued

What assistance does the LEC provide to the families, friend and colleagues of fallen officers?

In a line of duty death, all chaplains are on alert with all hands on deck. We start around the clock coverage for the next 72 hours. We work with the fallen officer's family, friends, the officer's partner and any person who worked with that deceased officer. We never assume who will or will not be affected. And we never ever tell the person how traumatized they are; we ask them to tell us through their symptoms.

We are called out within the first 20-30 minutes of the incident. During this time, it's like emotional CPR - to help them start processing this abnormal situation, and the reactions and symptoms that happen because of it. We don't want their brain to get stuck on the crisis. We want them to start the process of getting into a new normal. After the initial response, we connect them to other service providers or nonprofits that can help them continue to heal.

What challenges/concerns do you have when working with them?

It is different because the law enforcement culture is unique. Officers are trained to be in control, so this is an unfamiliar feeling and place to be when colleagues, families or friends are totally out of control. They are emotionally distraught, and have reactions and feelings like any other victim.

How do you help colleagues process this tragedy?

We love our officers. We remind them of their humanity and the normalcy of their extreme reactions. A line of duty death is a critical incident, and we treat it like any other critical incident they are involved in. We help them start the process and give them respite time to grieve and experience the trauma in a safe area with a safe person, so they don't feel judged or feel like they let down the people they serve.

What can the community do to support the families of fallen officers?

The community wants to reach out and express their sympathy. We are the liaison between the community and law enforcement. Through social media, we let people know what they can do. One thing we ask well-wishers not to do is ask "did you know him?" Whether they knew him or not, the fallen officer is part of the law enforcement family. Because a lot of times the officers feel alone in their grief, they take very personally what may be said about the incident, possible criticisms, so what the community can do is be supportive. For our last fallen officer, one of the business owners bought blue lights for the neighboring businesses to display. Others wore blue ribbons. These are ways to visibly show support. Also, the community could write letters or send sympathy cards to the department. These notes of support would go a long way.

Is there anything you would like to share with the community that will help our officers?

Whether it's an injured or fallen officer who dies, just the everyday thank you, greeting or sending thoughts and prayers when you hear the sirens go past. All of these things are part of what we do to help them do their jobs better. Don't expect that these officers aren't affected by all these calls that you read about - suicides, homicides and fatal accidents. They're moms and dads, brother and sisters, they are affected, they are not robots, they are men and women who have emotions too.



Chaplain Mindi Russell Speaking at Public Safety & Community Luncheon

Community Prosecution

Community prosecutors are the eyes and ears of the office. They work in neighborhoods with law enforcement, local agencies, community organizations and citizens to address quality of life issues that impact the community. These issues range from trespassing to assaults to prosecuting property owners who rent their properties in substandard conditions. ([view Press Release](#))

Community prosecutors must think "outside the box" when problem solving. For example, citizens voiced concerns at community meetings about feeling victimized by low-level crime, and being frustrated with repeat offenders getting away with it. Hearing these concerns, the District Attorney's [Community Prosecution Unit \(CPU\)](#) created the Chronic Nuisance Offender (CNO) program. CNO was born out of the realization that the revolving door of arrest and immediate release, common with misdemeanor offenses, did nothing to serve the offenders or the communities being impacted by their criminal activity.

In an effort to stop that revolving door, CNOs are identified based on having 10 or more criminal arrests or citations for specific crimes within a 12-month period.

Did You Know?

- ♦ Property owner, Cameron Razavi, was ordered to serve 3 weeks in jail for repeated failures to correct building and code violations on properties he owned. Razavi entered into a plea agreement in October 2016, where he promised to improve his substandard dwelling units. After a year and a half of lack of progress on these improvements, Judge Kevin McCormick placed Razavi in custody.
- ♦ On March 5, 2018, Razavi showed proof of substantial compliance and was released from custody. He was ordered to return on May 15, to show proof of further progress on the property or face more jail time. ([view Press Release](#))

Continued

If a CNO is subsequently arrested for a new crime, the District Attorney works with law enforcement, the Court, the Public Defender's Office and providers to offer the offender a tailored program to address substance abuse, mental illness and housing needs with the goal of improving quality of life for everyone in the community.

One CNO success story is Ms. R.B. She had been homeless for 10+ years, living on the streets of Carmichael and frequently committing misdemeanor crimes. In 2016, she was arrested again for trespassing. Eligible for the CNO program, she was finally receptive to a 90-day residential program instead of jail time. When a bed became available at [The Promise House](#), she accepted it. After successful completion, she was accepted into a transitional living and work skills program at [Volunteers of America \(VOA\)](#), where she has been for almost one year. One of the Promise House workers saw her at VOA months later and could barely recognize her. She reported that Ms. R.B. is thriving there as a volunteer mentor.

CPU also works with law enforcement and community groups to address long term issues. One such collaboration is the [Sacramento Together](#) Human Trafficking Task Force. Community prosecutors attend regular meetings with law enforcement and community nonprofits such as [City of Refuge](#), [My Sister's House](#) and [CASH](#) (Community Against Sexual Harm) to share ideas on combatting sexual exploitation. The success of this task force led to the creation of another much needed task force; the Animal Cruelty Unit & Regional Task Force ([for more information on Animal Cruelty, view/download brochure](#)).



First Animal Cruelty Task Force Meeting

Community prosecutor, Hilary Bagley-Franzoia, became convinced of the need for a special unit to handle animal cruelty cases. Animals hold a special place in Hilary's heart. She is a career prosecutor, who despite her heavy caseload always made room for animal cruelty cases and is considered an expert in animal cruelty prosecutions. With the increased prevalence of animal cruelty and the link between violent crimes against people, District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert created the Animal Cruelty Task Force and Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit to address this issue and selected Ms. Bagley to oversee both. Congratulations, Hilary.

This spring, community prosecutors will be launching a new program to educate some of our most vulnerable citizens. Due to repeated problems with substandard housing and unfamiliarity with our laws, community prosecutors partnered with other government agencies and [Highlands Community Charter School](#) to create a training program to teach our refugee population about their rights to adequate housing, civic responsibilities and constitutional rights while living in Sacramento.

2018: New Laws that Impact Community Safety

There have been many changes in laws that affect the criminal justice system, from juvenile confinement to sentencing to early prison releases. Below are some recent new laws:



[Proposition 64](#)—Effective November 9, 2016: adults 21+ years old can possess one ounce of marijuana and cultivate up to six plants. As of January 1, 2018, they can purchase marijuana at licensed stores.

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1308](#)—Expands Youth Offender Parole to include individuals who were 25 years or younger when they committed their offense. After serving a minimum of 15 years, the inmate has the right to a parole hearing. This new law does not apply to those sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

[AB 1448](#)—Creates an Elderly Parole program for those 60+ years old and have spent at least the last 25 years in prison. The board considers whether age, time served and diminished physical condition have reduced the elderly inmate's risk for future violence. The bill exempts a person who was sentenced under the Three Strikes Law, a person who was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole or death and who was convicted of the first-degree murder of a peace officer.

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 180](#)—Eliminates 3-year sentencing enhancement for prior drug sales/

transportation convictions.

Continued

SB 384—Effective January 2021: creates tiered sex registration. **Tier 1:** convicted of misdemeanors or felony sex offender registration crimes NOT serious or violent offense **must register for 10 years**. **Tier 2:** serious, violent offenses, incest, sodomy, oral copulation or sexual penetration with foreign object where no consent due to mental, physical disorder and molesting/annoying a child where it's a second or subsequent conviction **must register for 20 years**. **Tier 3:** repeat sex offenders, murder during course of sex offense, kidnapping with intent to commit specified sex offense, assault with intent to commit, pimping, aggravated child molest, solicitation to commit sex offense or anyone sentenced to life **must register for life**. At the end of the above terms, a person may petition the court to be relieved of the requirement to register. The court has to grant them relief after a hearing where the prosecution may present evidence against termination.

SB 395—Prohibits the custodial interrogation of juveniles age 15 years and younger until he/she has consulted with an attorney (which the juvenile cannot waive).

SB 620—Changes mandatory gun enhancements ("use a gun, go to prison" and "10-20-life"), giving the judge discretion to impose said enhancements.

Under District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert's leadership, the office works on legislative issues and takes a proactive role in advocating for laws and policies that will help keep our community safe.

Community Calendar & Events

District Attorney's Office

March

- [Citizens Academy Application Deadline \(3/9\)](#)
- [Youth Academy](#) Graduation(s) Begin
(East, Elk Grove/Galt, North, and South)

April

- [Citizens Academy Begins \(4/3\)](#)
- [Outstanding Citizens Award Ceremony \(4/6\)](#)

May

- [Public Safety Luncheon \(5/4\)](#)

June

- [Citizens Academy Graduation \(6/12\)](#)
- [Youth Criminal Justice Shadow Day \(6/15\)](#)

August

- [National Night Out \(8/7\)](#)

September

- [Youth Academy Registration Begins](#)

National Community Calendar

March

- National Youth Violence Prevention Week (3/19-23)
- Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month

April

- National Crime Victims' Rights Week (4/8-14)
- Crime Victims United of CA, March on Capitol (4/9)
- Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month

May

- California Peace Officers' Memorial Enrollment Ceremony (5/7)
- National Police Week (5/13-19)
- National Missing Children's Day (5/25)
- Sacramento Police Sheriff Memorial Annual Remembrance Ceremony (5/3)

June

- National Gun Violence Awareness Day (6/2)
- Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month

September

- National Suicide Prevention Month



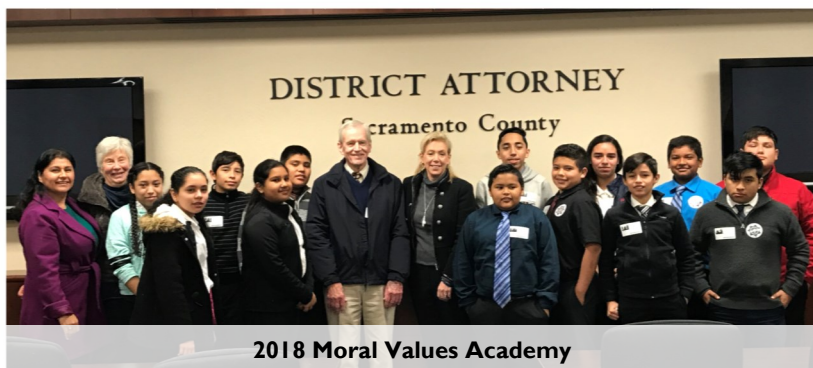
Snapshots: In the Community



2018 Youth Academy Dangerous Driving Presentation



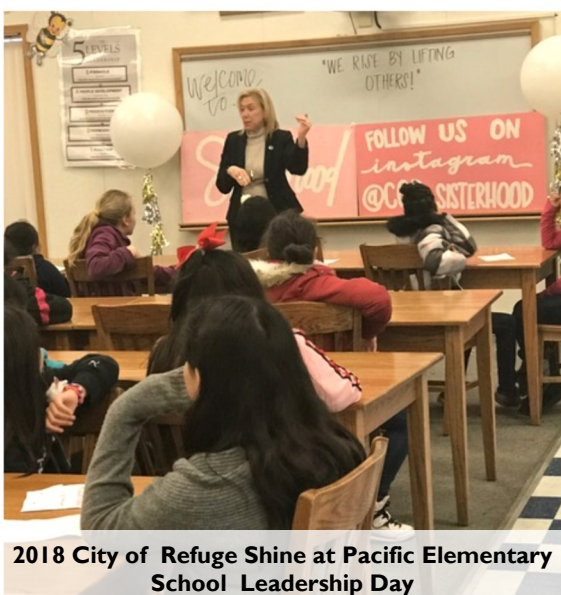
2018 Youth Academy Courthouse Tour



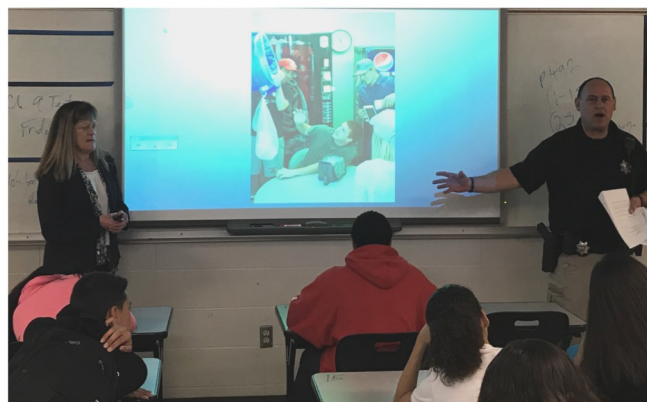
2018 Moral Values Academy



2018 Youth Academy DA Office Tour with Victim Witness Comfort Dog Reggie



2018 City of Refuge Shine at Pacific Elementary School Leadership Day



2018 #iSMART Presentation at Cordova High School

Snapshots: In the Community



2018 MLK Jr. Dinner: DDA Leland Washington, Asst. Chief DDA Natalia Luna, DDA Kevin Greene, Attorney Justin Ward



2018 Sacramento Police Department Honors Flossie Crump & Felicia Allen



**2018 Health Fair & Family Fun Day
Organizers: Blue Shield of CA, Covered CA, 97.5 FM.
Host: The Light Christian Church.**

Did You Know?

The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office recently launched a new office-wide health and wellness program--- LiveWell@SacDA.

The purpose in creating LiveWell@SacDA is to support employees through a variety of programs which, in turn, assist them to make healthy choices for themselves and their families.

(Pictured Right) Members of LiveWell@SacDA running together to raise money and getting outside on Thanksgiving morning for Run To Feed the Hungry 2017.

Don't Be a Victim: Tips & Alerts

Prevent Thieves from Reprogramming Your Key Fob to Break In Or Steal Your Car:

- ◇ **Out of Sight:** Leaving keys on top of your kitchen table means thieves can easily use relay devices to communicate with your key fob if they are within 100 meters of your keys. The car is tricked into thinking the fob is present, thus allowing them access to your car.
- ◇ **Block Key Fob Signal:** Store your key fob in a sturdy metal box, wrap it in tin foil or keep it in the refrigerator to help shield the signal out.
- ◇ **Add Layers of Security:** Install a 'ghost immobilizer' for another layer of protection, adding a second barrier to your car's factory fitted immobilizer with a unique access code to start your car.
- ◇ **Invest in a Tracking Device:** A tracking device will increase the chances of police recovering your car if it is stolen.



Don't Be the Next Victim of a Phone Scam:



- ◇ **Spot Imposters:** Scammers often pretend to be government officials, family members or a charity. Search the company online to confirm it's legitimate.
- ◇ **Don't Pay Upfront.**
- ◇ **Hang Up on Robocalls:** If you receive a recorded sales call, hang up and report it to the [Federal Trade Commission](#).
- ◇ **Be Skeptical About Free Trial Offers:** Some companies use free trials to sign you up for products and then bill you every month until you cancel.
- ◇ **Sign Up for Free Scam Alerts at ftc.gov/scams:** Get the latest scam tips/advice sent right to your inbox.

Agencies & Community Organizations That Can Help:

Phone Scam:

www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams

Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers:

www.crimealert.org

Text Message Scam: 916.874.3100

Crime Prevention - Car Key Fob Vulnerabilities:

<https://thecrimepreventionwebsite.com>

Community Organizations

A Community for Peace:

www.acommunityforpeace.org

Homicide Support Network:

www.sacda.org/helpingvictims/homicide-support-network/

Legal Services of Northern CA:

www.lsnc.net

MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving):

www.madd.org

Mexican Consulate:

www.consulmex.sre.gob.mx/sacramento

My Sister's House:

www.my-sisters-house.org

Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center:

www.hopethriveshere.org

SIRENS (Sheriff's Inmate Release Elective Notification System): Register @

www.sacsheriff.com

Suicide Prevention:

www.wellspacehealth.org/services/counseling-prevention/suicide-prevention

(DA) Victim Witness Assistance Program:

www.sacda.org/helpingvictims/victim-witness

Victims of Crime Resource Center:

www.1800victims.org

WEAVE (Domestic Violence Center):

www.weaveinc.org



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

901 G Street ~ Sacramento, CA 95814

www.sacda.org | Facebook.com/SacCountyDA | [@SacCountyDA](https://twitter.com/SacCountyDA)