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On the Record

San Diego County District Attorney

April 2005

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District Attorney Salutes Courageous Citizens



DA Dumanis with Citizens of Courage Awards Recipients

The 16th annual Citizens of Courage Awards ceremony, an emotional event that honors a select few for their bravery in the face of crime, attracted more than 200 people to the luncheon held at the Marriott Hotel downtown. The recipients were victims of crime, survivors of crime and good Samaritans who came to the aid of a rape victim.

Keever & Sellers

For eight long years Maria Keever and Milena Sellers searched for the killer of their two young boys.

Finally a DNA hit led detectives to Scott Erskine. The mothers survived one trial and two penalty phase trials before seeing Erskine convicted of killing their sons and sentenced to death.

Dennis Thornton

Former Oceanside Police Officer Dennis Thornton was shot in the face by a suspect. It ended his law enforcement career.

Despite devastating wounds, Thornton recovered and eventually testified at two separate trials. The suspect was finally sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Jeff Klatt & Maria Elena Delgado

Jeff Klatt and Maria Elena Delgado were both honored for coming to the aid of a homeless and mentally ill rape victim. Klatt and Delgado not only helped the woman shortly after the attack, but went on to become the prosecution's two main witnesses at two separate trials.

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS HONORS DISTRICT ATTORNEY



“Our Sexual Assault and Stalking Division has a 100 - percent conviction rate so far this year.”



In celebration of April’s Sexual Assault Awareness Month, San Diego’s Center For Community Solutions honored several local leaders for their efforts against sexual assault. County Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, DA Dumanis, SDPD Chief William Lansdowne and Assistant Sheriff Bill Gore were “pinned” during the news conference held on the steps of the Hall of Justice.

DA Dumanis told the crowd that, “under the leadership of Chief Summer Stephen, our Sexual Assault and Stalking Division has a 100 percent conviction rate so far this year.” CCS helps 12-thousand men, women and children each year affected by relationship violence and sexual assault. CCS is also in charge of a 24 hour rape crisis hotline. In addition, their workers provide hospital and court accompaniment services so that victims of sexually assault are never alone.

If you are a victim of rape call
Center For Community Solutions

888-272-1767

helpline@ccssd.org

DA Dumanis Meets with San Diego County Mayors and City Attorneys

Working to provide better service to outlying cities, the District Attorney’s Office has organized a series of lunches with the Mayors and City Attorneys throughout the county. On April 27th, nearly two dozen officials turned out for an hour and half working lunch. City Attorneys, in a cost savings move, said they were interested in coordinating training programs with the DA’s office. Another top concern raised was gang violence. Many of the mayors and city attorneys expressed interest in obtaining further information about gang injunctions to help prevent the violence. They also would like to have more police sweeps to combat crime in their areas. The DA’s office is also working on mapping the gang injunctions currently in place throughout the county. Community Relations Office Jesse Navarro also is expected to hold smaller meetings at DA Branch offices in the near future. For more information about gang injunctions visit our website

www.sdcca.org/protecting/gang.php

IDENTITY THEFT CASES ON THE RISE

The San Diego District Attorney's Office is the lead agency in the Computer and Technology Crimes High Tech Task Force. This agency is a national model for its ability to uncover, track, investigate and ultimately prosecute identity theft criminals. The picture to the right documents seized stolen mail from one such suspect. Investigators found dozens of letters, drivers' licenses, check books and other personal identification during one recent search. CATCH officials say this is just another routine case of identity theft.

**PROTECTING YOUR ASSETS FROM "TRUST MILLS"**

The Consumer Protection unit of the DA's Office wants San Diegans to be aware of the latest scam targeting seniors in our county. It involves the sale of annuities. These are not always a good investment for seniors. An annuity is an investment on which a person receives fixed payments for a lifetime or a specified number of years. Many times seniors can not access this investment for at least ten years, sometimes even longer. In addition, these assets can not be passed on to heirs in the event of death. This latest scam is being perpetrated by unscrupulous salesmen who offer seniors "free lunches" or "free estate planning sessions." Once the salesmen get the potential victims' financial information they then try to sell the victims annuities. It is illegal for anyone to advertise one service and then try to sell annuities without disclosing it up front. The law is designed to protect senior citizens who may get persuaded to make a bad investment. Beware: This is the latest scam in San Diego.

"Protecting our seniors is one of our office's top priorities," said DA Dumanis

To report this activity call our
Consumer Protection Unit
619 531-2070

DA CASE FILES

In the past couple of months, we have had some very good results in the courtroom. The following is a snapshot of some of our cases.

Kevin McRae, 21, was sentenced to three years in prison for his role in a series of North County shootings. McRae, a U.S. Marine, had pleaded guilty. The incident, which happened near Libby Lake Park, took place after a fatal shooting last summer near the Vista Transit Center. Two juveniles have been charged as adults in a related shooting that took the life of 41-year-old Ausencio Aria.

Mark Edward Noble, 36, was sentenced to a year in custody and ordered to pay \$100,000 in medical bills for punching a fellow golfer at Torrey Pines Golf Course causing serious facial injuries. Noble was convicted of assault and battery on 53-year-old David Chen, an electrical engineer from Rancho Penasquitos. Noble is a medical technician at Scripps Memorial Hospital-La Jolla.

Jorge Saul Avilez de la Rosa, 35, of Tijuana has pleaded guilty to selling prescription drugs over the Internet and through the mail. He also pleaded guilty to charges of money laundering in connection with the drug sales. He could face a maximum penalty of five years in prison when he's sentenced.

Wardell Nelson Joiner, 25, has been convicted of murdering his girlfriend. The former Marine choked and drowned his lance corporal girlfriend in their bathtub because he was jealous that she had met someone new. Joiner will be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in mid-May.

Dr. Nisha Shanley, 49, of Solana Beach has been ordered to surrender her chiropractor license for 18 months for insurance fraud. Prosecutors say Shanley billed State Compensation Insurance Fund for treatment not rendered to injured workers and overbilled for services. Shanley was placed on three years probation and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service.

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