



Bonnie M. Dumanis

On the Record



San Diego County District Attorney

April /May 2006

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San Diego District Attorney Office

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April/May 2006

Volume 2, Issue 2

Jessica's Law Finally Gains Foothold In Sacramento



San Diego District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis recently traveled to the State capitol to meet with Mark Lunsford, the father of child rape and murder victim Jessica Lunsford. Jessica was abducted from her Florida home where she lived with her single father and grandparents.

Her body was found wrapped in trash bags under several feet of dirt and sand in a neighbors yard. The man accused of killing Jessica, 47 year old John Couey, was a convicted sex offender. As soon as Lunsford found out this information, he made it his life's ambition to implement Jessica's law in all states.

In California, Jessica's Law will be on the November ballot. During Dumanis' stop in Sacramento she joined DA Jan Scully, Mark Lunsford, sponsors Senator George Runner and his wife Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, along with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for a press conference calling for all of California to support this critical legislation. One of the key provisions of Jessica's law is if someone is convicted of raping a child they would face life in prison.

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*District Attorney, Local Businesses and Sycuan
Help Launch Emergency Victims Relief Fund*

**If you would like to donate to
our Emergency Relief Fund to
help local crime victims in
their time of need please visit
our website
www.helpcrimevictims.org**

or

Call 866-755-HOPE

San Diego victims of crime have another well needed resource; a fund that will provide immediate emergency help.

During an early April press conference, the San Diego District Attorney's Office announced the creation of the fund, which was made possible with generous donations from the San Diego Foundation, Cox Communications, Cubic Corporation and the Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation.

The District Attorney's Office assisted more than 10-thousand crime victims last year. Although crime victims do get help from the State Restitution Fund, sometimes it takes weeks or months. With the new local fund, resources will now immediately be available to help our victims with such necessities as food, housing, medical services and personal items.

The public is encouraged to donate money to this non-profit fund. Please see above box for more information on how you can help make a difference in a crime victim's life.

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Jessica's Law: What it will do to protect the children of California

- Ensure that all child molesters who molest children under the age of 14 are put in prison with a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years or 25 years to life. Closes loopholes in California's one-strike laws.
- Eliminates all "good-time" credits for sex offenders ensuring that these sex offenders are required to serve their entire sentence and will not be released for good behavior.
- Electronically monitor convicted sex offenders for life, if they are ever released from prison, through GPS tracking.
- Create a 2,000 foot "predator-free" zone around schools and parks to prevent sex offenders from living near where our children learn and play.
- For more information visit



www.jessicaslaw2006.com/fact_sheet.pdf

State Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Assemblywoman Sharon Runner and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis
Join Forces For Jessica's Law

San Diego Is Already Ahead of The Curve When It Comes To Sex Offender GPS Monitoring Programs

San Diego has been chosen as the first in the state to be designated as the pilot site to closely monitor high risk paroled sex offenders, using the latest technology.

"We have promised State Parole, and we promise the community, our office will aggressively prosecute any sex offender parolee who violates any law in San Diego County," DA Bonnie Dumanis said. "Our joint goal is to stop sex offenders from re-offending."

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has chosen San Diego for a pilot program that will monitor the parolees 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with the use of global positioning satellite transmitters worn on their ankles. Approximately 80 high-risk sex offender parolees have been issued these electronic bracelets. They make it easier for San Diego law enforcement agencies to track their whereabouts.

The DA's Sex Crimes/Stalking Division is handling the prosecution of these cases and has made at least one senior deputy DA available around the clock to assist State Parole in the program. While the GPS transponders are helping to successfully prosecute parole violators, the technology is already helping to eliminate potential suspects.

District Attorney's Citizens Of Courage

Awards & Luncheon

Honorees:

- **Gabriel Tellez** tried in vain to save the life of Oceanside Police Officer Tony Zeppetella, who was shot by a gang member during a routine traffic stop. Officer Zeppetella later died from his wounds.
- **Corey Lucas** was five when his great uncle attacked him and his grandparents in a homicidal rage. His grandfather was murdered, he and his grandmother suffered major wounds, but survived the ordeal and testified in court.
- **Tracie Dean** lives in Georgia, but was honored after making national headlines when she prevailed upon authorities to check on a 3-year-old Alabama girl she saw in a convenience store. It turned out the girl had been the victim of repeated sexual assaults by her step-father, who also had a warrant for his arrest in San Diego.



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.

Harvey Montez Arthur, 35, a five-time felon affiliated with a North County crack cocaine ring, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit assault. The ring's members had been plotting to kill its rivals. Arthur was the fifth member of the ring to plead guilty in the case. The plot to kill rival gang members came to light during a yearlong investigation by the San Diego County Integrated Narcotics Task Force, a collaboration of local and federal law enforcement agencies.

Bilji Varghese, 31, a martial arts expert who surprised his ex-wife's lover at the victim's Del Cerro home, fatally stabbing him five times, was sentenced to 26 years to life in state prison. Varghese was convicted of first-degree murder in the Nov. 11, 2004, slaying of Dr. Haval Ravin, a fertility doctor and divorced father of three.

Renita Sandoval, 25, an East County caretaker who stole about \$11,000 from an ailing 91-year-old woman and her estate pleaded guilty to one count of elder abuse. Sandoval could get up to a year in jail when she is sentenced in El Cajon. Detectives arrested Sandoval March 30 while serving a search warrant at her Alpine home. Sandoval was using the now deceased victim's credit cards and bank accounts while she was working for the dying at a hospice facility. Sandoval continued stealing from the victim's estate even after the patient died back in November.

Elder Abuse Hotline
800-510-2020

Stacy Steel, 37, the former executive director of the North County Humane Society pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining 3,600 Vicodin tablets. She obtained the prescription drugs by using the federal drug registration numbers of three veterinarians. Steel was ordered by a Vista Superior Court Judge to enter a drug treatment program, pay a \$500 fine and submit to searches by law enforcement at any time. The charge will be dismissed if Steel successfully completes the treatment program, the judge said. Steel was in charge of the Humane Society chapter for three years before stepping down from her \$95,000-a-year job.

Jose Alarid, 20, was convicted of second-degree murder for a gang-related beating and stabbing attack in Paradise Hills. Alarid faces 35 years to life in prison when he is sentenced in July. Alarid was convicted in the March 6, 2005, killing of 20 year old Javier Hernandez who was stabbed to death at an apartment complex. Hernandez was beaten and stabbed 27 times after two gangs got into an argument early in the morning.

Todd Gaerin, 41, of El Cajon was convicted of underfeeding seven of his dogs and not cleaning their ears to the point where they seemed deaf. After a half-day of deliberations, a jury found him guilty of seven misdemeanor counts of animal abuse and not guilty on one count. Gaerin was also convicted of misdemeanor charges of failure to properly license the dogs, having an unlawful number of dogs in a kennel, failure to immunize and failure to care for an animal. In his defense, Gaerin told police he liked to keep his eight dogs "lean." A neighbor called Animal Control officers to report several "skinny dogs" wandering around Gaerin's property.

Animal Abuse Hotline
619-236-4250

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