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NEWS RELEASE

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Jan. 9, 2014

UPDATE: Former LAX Police Officer Sentenced

Former LAWA Officer Michael Wayne Staunton, 56, was sentenced today to four years in state prison by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Paul Suzuki. He also was ordered to register as a sex offender.

Jan. 8, 2014

Former LAX Police Officer Awaiting Sentencing Following Sexual Assault Conviction

A former Los Angeles World Airports police officer convicted of sexually assaulting a female passenger while she was waiting to board a departing flight is scheduled to be sentenced on Thursday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Former LAWA Officer Michael Wayne Staunton, 56, is facing four years in state prison when he returns to court for sentencing before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Paul Suzuki in Department 34 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

A jury on Nov. 18, 2013, found Staunton guilty of all three counts as charged, including sexual battery by restraint, assault by a peace officer and false imprisonment by fraud, said Deputy District Attorney Renee Chang with the Justice System Integrity Division.

Staunton was convicted of assaulting a 25-year-old female passenger on April 12, 2011, while he was on duty at LAX. Staunton was stationed at a police podium located just inside the security screening area for departing passengers when the woman passed near the location and sat down with a friend while they waited for another friend.

Staunton first approached the victim and made a sexual comment. He later returned and motioned for the woman to follow him. He used his security access card to take her to a storage area where he sexually assaulted her. He then walked her back to the departure area.

The victim reported the incident to her friends. They then contacted LAPD and filed a report.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.