

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Paul Eakins
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
PEakins@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

Jan. 5, 2018

Man Sentenced to 50 Years to Life for Killing Dog Owner

A man who fatally shot a dog owner after hitting the victim's pet with his pickup truck was sentenced today to 50 years to life in state prison, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Demonte Antone Thomas (dob 09/04/87) of Lancaster was found guilty by a jury on July 27 of first-degree murder with a handgun-use enhancement in the killing of 22-year-old Michael Davis.

Deputy District Attorneys Steven Mac and Thomas Hilton co-prosecuted the case.

According to court testimony, Thomas struck Davis' dog with his truck on June 26, 2015, in Lancaster. Davis followed Thomas and asked him to help pay the medical bills for his dog, but Thomas fled.

Later that same night, Thomas went to the victim's Lancaster home with a group of five to seven men, prosecutors said. When Davis again requested help paying for the dog's veterinary bills, Thomas pulled out a gun and fatally shot the victim. The dog did not survive its injuries.

Case MA066546 was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

[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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.