

# Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Man Arraigned in Alleged DUI Crash That Killed Girlfriend**

A Van Nuys man, accused of driving under the influence, was arraigned today in connection with his girlfriend's death in a traffic collision, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Adan Montalban said Edward Lamont Powe, III, 24 (dob 1/20/89), pleaded not guilty this afternoon to one count of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated in case LA076381.

Prosecutors allege that on Dec. 30, 2013, at about 12:30 a.m., Powe was driving a Ford Focus at excessive speed with his girlfriend, Jennifer Benga, 19, when he allegedly lost control of the vehicle and crashed against a light pole near Roscoe Boulevard and Hayvenhurst Avenue in the Van Nuys area.

According to authorities, when they arrived at the scene of the crash Powe and the victim were both trapped in the car. She was later declared dead.

The matter remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department.

Bail for Powe was set at \$100,000. If convicted as charged, Powe faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in state prison.

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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](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.