

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



NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

Sarah Ardalani  
Public Information Officer  
213-974-3525  
[SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov](mailto:SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov)  
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

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## **Gang Member Sentenced to Life in Prison for Whittier Murder**

A 25-year-old gang member convicted of fatally shooting a teenager in Whittier was sentenced yesterday afternoon to life in state prison without the possibility of parole, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Ismael Raya Cardona was convicted by a jury on July 31, 2014, of two felonies: first-degree murder and attempted murder in case VA116734.

Jurors found true a special circumstance allegation that the killing was committed in the commission of a robbery. Gun and gang allegations also were found to be true.

At yesterday's sentencing, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Robert Higa ordered the defendant to pay restitution in the amount of \$7,500 to the California Victim Compensation Program. Additionally, Cardona must pay \$5,323.68 to the murder victim's mother for funeral expenses.

Deputy District Attorney Jose Gonzalez of the Hardcore Gang Division said on the evening of April 3, 2009, Cardona attended a house party in Whittier.

While there, Cardona pulled out a gun and attempted to rob Paul Jauregui, 17, the prosecutor said. The victim tried to defend himself and the two engaged in a struggle.

The defendant ultimately shot Jauregui four times and then fled the scene, the prosecutor added. Authorities were called and the victim was taken to the hospital where he died.

During the incident, a 17-year-old male also was struck by the gunfire, but survived.

Months after the shooting, Cardona was arrested by police.

At trial, witness accounts and DNA evidence linked the defendant to the crime.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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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.