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NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Convicted of Fatal Stabbing, Robbery in Whittier

A 30-year-old woman was convicted today of stabbing another woman to death and then breaking into a store, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

The jury deliberated for a day before finding Vanessa Celaya of Rubidoux guilty of two felony counts: second-degree murder and first-degree residential robbery in case VA136733.

Jurors also found true a special allegation that Celaya personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife, in the commission of the crime.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced March 8 in Department G of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch. She faces a possible maximum sentence of 18 years and four months in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Andrea Mader, who prosecuted the case, said on Sept. 5, about 11 p.m., Celaya walked up to victim Michelle Young and the two women had a verbal exchange. At some point, the defendant stabbed Young several times. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Following the assault, Celaya broke into a tire shop, threatened a security guard inside and demanded a change of clothing before leaving the store, according to the prosecutor.

Authorities were called and law enforcement apprehended Celaya near the store.

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. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.