

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Verdict Reached in Long Beach Attempted Murder Case

A jury found a Long Beach woman guilty of the attempted murder of her friend in 2011, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Julian Recana said the jury deliberated a little over two hours before finding Erica Johnson, 27 (dob 02/11/1986), guilty of attempted murder.

Jurors also found true allegations that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a firearm, a handgun and inflicted great bodily injury upon the victim.

Recana said the attempted killing occurred on Dec. 27, 2011. The victim, a 21-year-old man, was discovered about 10 p.m. in an alley with a gunshot wound to the head.

Authorities responded to the scene and transferred the man to a local hospital, where it was determined he suffered severe brain damage.

The prosecutor said the victim remained in a coma for months, but finally awoke in June 2012. At that time, the victim communicated to his mother through "yes" and "no" answers that Johnson shot him.

After an extensive investigation, officials charged Johnson on Sept. 6, 2012. She initially denied knowing the victim, Recana said, but then conceded to a friendship. Still, she denied shooting him, the prosecutor added.

Despite the victim's disabilities, including not being able to speak or walk, he testified in court with the help of a machine and said Johnson shot him over a drug dispute.

The defendant will return to Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch for sentencing in Department 20 on Feb. 13. She faces a maximum of 32 years to life in state prison with the possibility of parole.

The case was investigated by the Long Beach Police 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. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.