

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jane Robison
Senior Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
JRobison@da.lacounty.gov

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Drug counselor convicted of murder, DUI in death of pedestrian

A substance abuse counselor was convicted today of second-degree murder for the 2012 death of a pedestrian who was embedded in her windshield as she continued to drive for two miles, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

A jury of five men and seven women also found Sherri Lynn Wilkins, 52, guilty of DUI causing injury, driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 percent or higher and leaving the scene of an accident.

Phillip Moreno, 31, was walking on Torrance Boulevard near Madrid Avenue when he was struck by a car driven by Wilkins. Wilkins finally was forced to stop after witnesses surrounded her car at Crenshaw Boulevard and 182nd Street and detained her until police arrived. She was arrested following the Nov. 24, 2012 accident.

Deputy District Attorneys John Harlan and Saman Ahmadpour, who prosecuted the case, said Wilkins consciously disregarded her victim as a human being.

"As she unsealed each container of alcohol, she unleashed death on Phillip Moreno," Harlan argued in closing argument.

The 31-year-old Moreno later died at an area hospital.

Wilkins returns March 26 for sentencing before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Henry Hall. She faces 55 years to life in prison.

The case was investigated by the Torrance 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.