

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Missouri Man Charged with Arson, Assault at Westfield Century City Mall

A 25-year-old Missouri man is scheduled to be arraigned today for alleged arson and assault at the Westfield Century City Mall, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Nicholas Kyle Oates (dob 10/1/93) was charged in case SA100160 with one count of second-degree burglary, six counts of arson and one count of assault with a firearm. He is expected to be arraigned today in Department W30 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Airport Branch.

On March 15, Oates allegedly entered the Amazon Books store at the Westfield Century City Mall, walked to the children's section and set books on fire. An employee confronted Oates who allegedly pulled out a handgun on the employee. He then lit additional items in the store on fire and fled the scene, according to prosecutors.

Oates was arrested March 16 in Venice. If convicted as charged, he faces a possible maximum sentence of 21 years in state prison.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department Major Crimes Division, Criminal Conspiracy Section and the Los Angeles Fire Department Arson Unit.

[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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.