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## **District Attorney Jackie Lacey Sponsors Legislation On the Release of Sexually Violent Predators**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey is urging state lawmakers to give counties where sexually violent predators may be housed the opportunity to actively participate in conditional release hearings.

The legislation, Assembly Bill 1607 (D-Fox), was drafted in response to the May 2013 decision to conditionally release serial rapist Christopher Hubbart to Los Angeles County. The decision was made by a Santa Clara County Superior Court judge without input from attorneys representing Los Angeles County.

Lacey vigorously opposed the release of Hubbart, who admitted to raping approximately 40 women between 1971 and 1982. The District Attorney challenged the Santa Clara judge's ruling but twice lost on appeal.

"This is a matter of public safety. I believe the residents of Los Angeles County deserve a voice in the process before a predator is released into our backyard," Lacey said. "In the future, we hope to be notified at the earliest possible time and allowed to vigorously oppose the release of sexually violent predators into our community."

A hearing on Hubbart's proposed conditional release housing location is scheduled to be held tomorrow (Friday, April 4, 2014) in Santa Clara County Superior Court.

Hubbart committed rapes and assaults against more than 26 women in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties between May and November 1972. His last conviction, however, was in Santa Clara County. For that reason, the Santa Clara judge retained jurisdiction over the case, including his petition for conditional release.

The proposed law would require sexually violent predators petitioning for release to list potential domiciles, and allow attorneys representing those counties to participate in court proceedings to determine where the petitioner will live. It also would require the convicted sex offenders to submit to a search of himself or his property at any time.

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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 <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.