

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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Former Bell Gardens Police Officer Pleads to Workers' Compensation Fraud

A former Bell Gardens police officer accused of filing a false workplace injury claim pleaded no contest late yesterday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Arunas Sodonis of the Healthcare Fraud Division said John Kovacs, 31, pleaded to one felony count of workers' compensation insurance fraud.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Paul Suzuki ordered Kovacs to complete 400 hours of community service and pay a \$4,000 fine to the state workers' compensation fund. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct. 2, 2014.

Kovacs filed a false workers' compensation claim for a knee injury he alleged occurred on the job. An internal investigation by his employer, however, revealed that Kovacs suffered the injury during off hours at a physical agility test for the Huntington Beach Police Department.

The case was investigated by the Bell Gardens Police Department and the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

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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.