

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Burbank Man Sentenced in
Girlfriend's Stabbing Murder**

A Burbank man was sentenced today to 26 years to life in state prison for the 2012 fatal stabbing of his girlfriend, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Gregory Dohi imposed the sentence on Stephen Todd Joanou Jr, 27, at a morning hearing after denying a motion for a new trial. Joanou also was ordered to pay \$5,000 in restitution to the victims' state compensation board.

Joanou was convicted of one count of first-degree murder on March 24. Jurors also found true an allegation that the defendant used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a sharp object, in the commission of the crime.

Deputy District Attorney Sharon Ransom of the Van Nuys Branch Office prosecuted the case.

The victim's body was found at Weddington Park in North Hollywood during the early morning hours of March 20, 2012. The victim was stabbed 19 times in her upper body, the prosecutor said.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, North Hollywood Division.

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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. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.