



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION

JACKIE LACEY • District Attorney
SHARON J. MATSUMOTO • Chief Deputy District Attorney

JEAN GUCCIONE • Director

CONTACT:

Shiara Davila-Morales, Chief
Media Relations Division
213-974-3525

June 11, 2013

District Attorney Jackie Lacey Issues Special Directives on Exculpatory Evidence

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey today announced the posting of two important policies, or special directives, that clarify prosecutors' obligations to disclose evidence that might be exculpatory for defendants facing criminal charges.

District Attorney Lacey said the new special directives ensure that the practices already being used by the District Attorney's Office are accurately reflected in the training materials and written policies provided to prosecutors.

"It is imperative that everyone on the prosecution team understands and complies with the rule of law and the policy set forth in these directives," District Attorney Lacey said. "The integrity of the criminal justice system requires that prosecutors play fair in seeking justice. When in doubt, we want our prosecutors to disclose the evidence and litigate its admissibility in a court of law."

The policies have been reworked for the purpose of clarifying key concepts and giving deputy district attorneys more guidance.

Special Directive 13-01 sets forth the District Attorney Office's policy for how prosecutors must handle information commonly referred to as "Brady material," in reference to the holding in *Brady v. Maryland* (1963) 373 U.S. 83.

Special Directive 13-02 sets forth the District Attorney's policy regarding information on peace officers that may be included in the "Brady Alert System," a database that includes potentially exculpatory impeachment information on peace officers and government-employed expert witnesses. The standard for entering information into the system remains clear and convincing.

The ACLU of Southern California dismissed a lawsuit against the District Attorney's Office after reviewing the new special directives. The special directives are available for public review at <http://da.lacounty.gov/topdocs.htm>.

###