

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads Guilty For Downtown Fire, Marijuana Grow

A Los Angeles man pleaded guilty today to running a downtown drug operation that caused a fire last summer, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Rafael Sarkisyan, 34, pleaded guilty to one count each of manufacturing a controlled substance, recklessly causing fire to an inhabited structure and animal cruelty.

He is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 4 when he is expected to receive six years, eight months in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Ashley Rosen with the Major Narcotics Division, who prosecuted the case, said a blaze broke out last July at a six-story building in downtown Los Angeles. After police and firefighters arrived, they found a marijuana grow and extraction lab on site.

Inside an apartment, police discovered two dogs that appeared to have died in the fire.

Case BA427308 was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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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 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.