

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Hermosa Beach Man Sentenced for Killing Girlfriend

A Hermosa Beach man was sentenced today to 15 years in state prison for shooting his girlfriend to death on New Year's Eve 2011, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Ann Lee said David Brian Abbott, 35, was found guilty by a jury of voluntary manslaughter on July 2.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Eric C. Taylor of the Torrance Branch presided over the case.

On Dec. 31 2011, a neighbor heard Abbott and his 38-year-old girlfriend, Samantha Sproson, arguing, according to court testimony. The neighbor testified that he then heard the defendant saying, "I still have one in the chamber" and counting down twice before fatally shooting her. Sproson was found by police with one shot to the head.

Abbott had a blood alcohol content of around .30 percent at the time that he shot his girlfriend, the prosecutor said. By the time police arrived, he had attempted to hide the gun and the bullet casing used in the shooting, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Hermosa Beach Police Department and the Los Angeles Police Department, Homicide 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.