

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Felons Sentenced for Murder, Attempted Murder,  
Robbery, Other Crimes**

Three men were sentenced yesterday afternoon to life in state prison without the possibility of parole after they were convicted of a fatal home invasion robbery, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Greg Cernok, who prosecuted the case, said on April 11 a jury found Pedro Huerta Zuniga, 44, guilty of first-degree murder, attempted murder, assault with a semiautomatic firearm, possession of a firearm by a felon, four counts of home invasion robbery and first-degree burglary.

Francisco Argenis Parra, 32, was convicted of first-degree murder, attempted murder, assault with a semiautomatic firearm, four counts of home invasion robbery and first-degree burglary.

A third defendant, Hector Aguilar Arciga, 39, was found guilty of first-degree murder, four counts of home invasion robbery and first-degree burglary on April 14.

The prosecutor said on April 22, 2009, the three defendants went to a Bellflower apartment to purchase drugs from the victim, Carlos Zarate, 23. When Zarate realized he was being cheated out of money, the three men shot him, the prosecutor said. Zarate was later discovered by authorities and pronounced dead at the scene.

During the murder investigation, detectives learned there were three other people in the apartment who witnessed the fatal shooting. They also were robbed, including one who was shot. The victims testified in court and identified the defendants as the assailants.

Furthermore, fingerprints found at the murder scene linked Zuniga and Parra to the killing. Additionally, a gun found in Parra's car connected him to the incident, the prosecutor said.

The prosecutor argued during trial that the defendants were part of a "drug rip-off crew." They would establish trust with a dealer by purchasing a small amount of drugs. They then would request a large

quantity and rob the drug dealers using semi-automatic handguns, zip ties, and in some cases security badges.

The defendants also would use stacks of \$1 bills with a larger bill on the outside to make it appear as if the proper amount of money was brought to the location.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's 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 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.