

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Death Row Inmate Pleads to 1982 Murder

A 52-year-old man currently on death row pleaded guilty today to a 1982 murder and was immediately sentenced, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

James Robert Scott pleaded guilty to the first-degree murder of Vivian Johnson and admitted the special circumstances of rape in commission of a murder and conviction of a prior murder. He was immediately sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Lisa Lench.

Deputy District Attorney Reinhold Mueller with the Sex Crimes Division prosecuted the case.

The 40-year-old victim was found strangled to death inside her Los Angeles residence in the 3900 block of Welland Avenue on Nov. 29, 1982.

Scott, housed at San Quentin State Prison for an unrelated murder, was connected to the victim by DNA evidence.

Case BA426663 was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

[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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.