Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOffice

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Woman Found Guilty of Killing Romantic Partner, Framing Victim's Boyfriend

A jury has found a Palmdale woman guilty of first-degree murder for shooting a 31-year-old woman whom she had a romantic relationship with after meeting through Craigslist, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Jason Quirino said a jury yesterday also found true a special allegation that defendant Larene Eleanor Austin (dob 1/9/82) used a handgun in case MA051956.

Sentencing for Austin is scheduled for Aug. 26 in Department A16 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch. She faces up to 50 years to life in state prison.

After a brief romantic relationship with the defendant, victim Lanell Barsock, 31, broke things off with Austin to focus on her relationship with her boyfriend, according to court testimony. On June 16, 2010, Austin fatally shot Barsock in the head, the prosecutor said.

According to court testimony, the defendant attempted to frame the victim's boyfriend for the killing, and later fled the country once the man was cleared by police. On January 2012, Austin was arrested in Belize after the case was featured on an episode of "America's Most Wanted," the prosecutor added.

DNA and other forensic evidence was presented during the 21-day long trial.

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