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Aug, 15, 2014

**Gang Members Convicted of Murder,
Kidnapping, Other Crimes**

A jury yesterday found three 12th Street gang members guilty of a series of murders and kidnappings in 2009, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorneys Sarika Kim and Robert Serna of the Hardcore Gang Division said the jury deliberated for just over two days before convicting Robert Louis Caballero, 37, of three counts of first-degree murder, two counts of kidnapping, one count of assault with a firearm, one count of possession of a firearm by a felon and evading an officer, willful disregard.

Jurors also found true gun and gang allegations. Furthermore, the jury found true the special circumstance allegations of lying in wait, murder during the course of a kidnapping and multiple murders.

Caballero's co-defendant, Pete Trejo Jr., 32, was found guilty of one count of first-degree murder and kidnapping. Jurors found true gun and gang allegations, as well as the special circumstance allegations of lying in wait and murder during the course of a kidnapping.

Andrew Valenzuela, 23, was also convicted of one count of first-degree murder and kidnapping. The jury found true gun and gang allegations, as well as the special circumstance allegation of murder during the course of a kidnapping.

Prosecutors said on Sept. 29, 2009, Caballero killed Armando Vidana, a Cherryville gang member. Vidana was shot eight times and his body was found in the street.

On Nov. 5, 2009, Caballero was at a home with an 18-year-old kidnapped victim, his cousin David Padilla, and Lorraine Minjarez. During the visit, Caballero became suspicious of Minjarez and believed she was going to tell police that he killed Vidana.

Caballero lured Minjarez to a nearby vehicle driven by his cousin. Seated in the car was the kidnapped victim. From that location, Caballero, Minjarez and the kidnapped victim picked up codefendant Trejo.

During the ride, Caballero directed the driver to take them to Mt. Baldy. After they arrived, Caballero then directed Trejo to dig a grave while he strangled Minjarez. Once she was killed, Trejo buried her body and Caballero ordered the kidnapped victim to hide the evidence.

The next day, suspicious of Padilla's loyalty to him, Caballero lured his cousin to a remote freeway overpass. Once there, he directed codefendant Valenzuela to strangle Padilla while forcing the kidnapped victim to watch. Valenzuela strangled and beat Padilla to death with rocks, prosecutors said.

Two months later, Caballero, Trejo and Valenzuela were charged in connection with the crimes.

Trejo and Valenzuela are scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 3 at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in Dept. 101. They face a maximum sentence of life in state prison without the possibility of parole.

The penalty phase for Caballero begins on Aug. 19.

The case was investigated by the Pomona Police Department, Chino Police Department and 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.