

*Jackie Lacey*  
District Attorney  
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

Ricardo Santiago  
Public Information Officer  
213-974-3525  
[RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov](mailto:RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov)  
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

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**District Attorney's Forum Highlights  
Forensic Science Advancements**

More than 300 law enforcement investigators, criminologists and prosecutors attended a forum in Alhambra today where the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office presented some of the latest advancements in forensic science.

The day-long training event included presentations by subject-matter experts on cell phone technology, blood spatter analysis and injury biomechanics.

Marguerite Rizzo, Deputy-In-Charge of the Forensic Science Section, said forensic science breakthroughs are essential to catching criminals in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"The innovations and introduction of new forensic technologies almost on a daily basis has forensic science, once relegated to a supporting role in criminal investigations, now firmly planted in a pivotal role," said Rizzo.

Among the day's highlights was the analysis of two criminal cases that garnered widespread public attention.

Deputy District Attorney Frank Santoro gave a detailed overview of the prosecution of Robin Kyu Cho, convicted earlier this year of the 2003 murder of two women and a toddler boy. Cho was connected to the crimes through DNA evidence found on latex gloves affixed to packing tape placed over one of the victim's face.

Deputy District Attorney Habib Balian and Forensic Anthropologist Robert Mann, Ph.D., gave a comprehensive overview of how forensic tools were used to unravel the nefarious secrets of Christian K. Gerhartsreiter, a con artist who used the alias Clark Rockefeller.

Gerhartsreiter was found guilty last year of the 1985 murder of a San Marino man thanks in large part to forensic evidence that showed the German national had stabbed and beaten his victim to death.

"By continuing to keep up with the latest innovations in forensic science we will continue to provide the tools used to catch the modern criminal," Rizzo added.

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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.