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NEWS RELEASE

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Two Men Plead in Stalking Case

Two men charged with stalking a West Hollywood esthetician and soliciting a man to rape her each pleaded guilty today to one misdemeanor count of stalking, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Nicholas Prugo, 25, and Edward Feinstein, 32, pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of stalking after Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Michael Tynan announced he was dismissing the solicitation for rape felony count due to insufficient evidence. The judge also reduced the felony stalking charge to a misdemeanor in case BA439593.

The judge announced his ruling today following a 12-hour preliminary hearing conducted over four days in July and August. Each defendant then pleaded open to the court, meaning there was no plea offer from prosecutors.

Both defendants return to Department 42 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center on Oct. 24 for sentencing.

Prugo and Feinstein allegedly posted an ad on Jan. 22, 2014, on an Internet website soliciting men to go to the esthetician's home to rape her. Judge Tynan dismissed that felony charge today and reduced the single count of felony stalking to a misdemeanor.

Deputy District Attorney David Reinert with the Sex Crimes Division prosecuted the case that was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Fraud and Cyber Crimes team.

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.