

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Man Charged With Making Bomb Threat
At Downtown Criminal Courts Building**

A man was charged today with making a false bomb threat at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center last week that caused the evacuation of a courtroom and the third floor, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

John Edward Watson (dob 8/25/71) of North Hollywood was charged with one count each of false report of a bomb to agency or business and malicious informing of false bomb in case BA429872.

Watson appeared this afternoon for arraignment in Department 30 but did not enter a plea. He was ordered to return Oct. 21 for a subsequent hearing.

Prosecutors said Watson walked into Department 32 on Sept. 26, carrying a small box. He placed the box next to him and stood up and said there was a bomb that was going to blow up, prosecutors added.

More than 30 people were evacuated from the courtroom and the entire floor was cleared as a precaution. Investigators determined there were no explosives inside the box.

If convicted as charged, Watson faces up to seven years in state prison.

The case remains under investigation 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 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.