

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to 40 Years to Life for Fatally Shooting Teen

A man was sentenced today to 40 years to life in state prison for fatally shooting an 18-year-old last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

A jury convicted Sherwin Mendoza Espinosa, 43, of Los Angeles on Aug. 21 of one count of second-degree murder and found true an allegation that a handgun was used in the killing.

On Feb. 26, 2017, Espinosa and victim Juan Castillo had a confrontation in the 1300 block of 16th Street in Santa Monica, according to court testimony. As the victim was attempting to leave in a car, the defendant fired at the vehicle and hit the teenager in the head.

Deputy District Attorney Keri Modder prosecuted case SA095642.

The Santa Monica Police Department investigated the case.

[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.