

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Gardena Gang Member Sentenced for 2008 Triple Murder, Attempted Murder

A member of the criminal street gang Gardena 13 – convicted of the murders of three and the attempted murder of a fourth victim – was sentenced to life in prison today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Cynthia Barnes said Luis Erasmo Rivera Garcia, 30, was sentenced to life in state prison without the possibility of parole in case YA080092.

Jurors found Garcia guilty on Nov. 14, 2013 of three counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder. The jury also found true a special circumstance allegation of multiple murders, as well as gang and gun allegations.

Judge Steven Van Sicklen of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch, presided over the 10-day trial and today's sentencing hearing.

Garcia shot three people to death and wounded a fourth person on Aug. 10, 2008 at Imperial Highway and Western Avenue, an area of Hawthorne known for "cruising," the prosecutor said. The defendant believed the victims were gang members but they were not, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Homicide Bureau and the Gardena Police 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](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.