

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 30, 2015

Sheriff's Deputy Charged with Battery After Dispute in Bar

A Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy pleaded not guilty today to injuring a bartender in Lakewood last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Monica Vargas (dob 6/11/81) has been charged with a misdemeanor count of assault and battery in case 5BF06871.

Prosecutors said on Nov. 17, 2014, Vargas was at a Lakewood bar when she was asked to leave by the bartender.

The defendant allegedly refused, prosecutors said. Vargas then reportedly grabbed the bartender by the hair, pulled her onto the bar and punched the victim in the face, prosecutors added.

The defendant is scheduled to return to court on Jan. 15, 2016, for a pretrial hearing in Department 3 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Bellflower Branch.

If convicted as charged, Vargas faces a possible maximum sentence of a year in county jail.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Internal Investigations Division.

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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 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendant.