



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION

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District Attorney, Others Work to Protect Military Service Members from Financial Predators

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey and other consumer protection advocates gathered today to address the issues of predatory business practices and deceptive advertising affecting military service members and their families.

An increase in consumer fraud and unlawful business practices in military communities – including outrageous interest rates on pay day loans, misleading used car contracts and unlawful foreclosures – prompted the daylong workshop.

“Our military service members are strong, smart and brave,” District Attorney Lacey said. “But many of them also are vulnerable to unscrupulous individuals who covet their military bonuses and steady pay.

These dedicated troops also are susceptible because of their commitment to repay their debts. Many of our service members are young, may be far from home and often need to make quick decisions about housing, cars and insurance.”

The free training event drew more than 100 participants including military Judge Advocates General, law enforcement personnel and consumer protection officials. The event, hosted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division along with the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs, was held at the California Endowment in downtown Los Angeles.

Training topics included California consumer protection laws and effective strategies for preventing, detecting and resolving consumer fraud.

District Attorney Lacey noted that prosecutorial agencies are not limited to criminal prosecutions and can bring civil actions to stop the exploitation of active and retired service members. The district attorney encouraged participants to share ideas and develop a collaborative approach to protect millions of service members who could become victims.

Participating agencies included the California Attorney General's Office, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, among others.

"Today, we are showing our men and women in uniform that their service is not taken for granted," District Attorney Lacey said. "We will stand with them against financial predators. If we work together, the scammers will have no place to hide."

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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. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.