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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Home Burglary Ring Return for Sentencing**

Eight defendants charged with operating a residential burglary ring that targeted vacationing newspaper subscribers are facing lengthy state prison terms when they return for sentencing, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Prosecutors said the eight stole more than \$1 million in nearly 20 residential burglaries in both Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. The burglaries occurred over a two-year period beginning in December 2011.

A jury on Oct. 29 convicted three of the eight defendants of multiple counts of residential burglary, conspiracy and other counts. The three return to Los Angeles Superior Court in Pomona, Department P, on Dec. 3 for sentencing and are facing between nine to 31 years to life in state prison in case BA415000.

The remaining five defendants all return to the same courtroom on Nov. 21 for sentencing and are facing between six to 40 years in state prison. Each pleaded no contest to various counts, including residential burglary, conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to receive stolen property.

Deputy District Attorney Mark Inaba with the Organized Crime Division said credit for taking down the burglary ring goes to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which led joint investigations by the Riverside and San Bernardino Sheriff's Departments and police departments from Arcadia, Burbank, Glendora, Monrovia and San Gabriel.

Glendora police began unraveling the burglary ring following a June 2012 routine traffic stop when Los Angeles Times "vacation hold" lists containing subscribers' addresses and the dates they were out of town was discovered in a defendant's car.

The eight defendants are:

- Randal Joseph Whitmore, 45, convicted of 12 counts, including six counts of residential burglary, conspiracy to commit residential burglary, conspiracy to receive stolen property and

four counts of receiving stolen property. He is facing up to 19 years in state prison when he returns on Dec. 3 for sentencing.

- Duane Vantuinen, 53, convicted of seven counts, including conspiracy to commit residential burglary, conspiracy to receive stolen property, felon with ammunition, possession of a controlled substance, receiving stolen property and two counts of felon with a firearm. He is facing up to nine years in state prison when he returns on Dec. 3 for sentencing.
- Edwin Lynn Valentine, 54, was convicted of two counts, including conspiracy to commit residential burglary and conspiracy to receive stolen property. Valentine, who has two prior strike convictions, is facing 31 years to life in state prison when he returns on Dec. 3 for sentencing.

The remaining five defendants who return on Nov. 21 for sentencing are:

- Defendant Joshua Ray Box, 44, is facing up to 40 years in state prison after pleading no contest to all counts, including conspiracy to commit burglary, conspiracy to receive stolen property and multiple counts of residential burglary and receiving stolen property.
- Defendant Lorraine Marlene Vasquez, 41, is facing up to 10 years in state prison after pleading no contest to one count of residential burglary and multiple counts of receiving stolen property.
- Defendant Cory Mulligan, 23, is facing up to eight years in state prison after pleading no contest to one count of residential burglary and three counts of receiving stolen property.
- Defendant Brian Thomas Duran, 43, is facing up to eight years in state prison after pleading no contest to one count of residential burglary and three counts of receiving stolen property.
- Defendant Margaret Mary Susan High, 30, is facing up to six years in state prison after pleading no contest to one count of residential burglary.

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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.