

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Nov. 29, 2017

Man Sentenced For Sex Trafficking, Assault

A 39-year-old man has been sentenced to 25 years in state prison for forcing a young woman into prostitution and beating her, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Okang Palmer was found guilty last month of one count each of human trafficking, assault with a deadly weapon, criminal threats and pandering. He was sentenced yesterday by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Jessie Rodriguez who ordered lifetime sex registration for the defendant.

Deputy District Attorney L. Christmas Brookens of the Victim Impact Program prosecuted the case.

In 2014, the victim moved from Northern California to Los Angeles, believing she would be in a romantic relationship with Palmer. But after she arrived, Palmer forced her into prostitution, the prosecutor said.

The victim gave Palmer money that she earned. He also beat her with a belt buckle and burned her after she escaped in early 2015.

Palmer drove her to a hospital in Stockton after the assault. After she was released from the hospital, the woman escaped from a home where she had stayed with the defendant. She contacted police and Palmer was later arrested.

Case NA101746 was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

[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.