

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

Dec. 8, 2014

Woodland Hills Man Enters Plea in Machete Attack on Estranged Wife and Friend

A Woodland Hills man entered no contest pleas today to several charges related to a machete attack on his estranged wife and her male friend, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Angela Jordan said Behnam Vasseghi pleaded no contest to two counts each of attempted murder; assault with a deadly weapon; making criminal threats and one count each of first-degree burglary with persons present; stalking; corporal injury to spouse in case LA075290.

Vasseghi also admitted allegations of use of a dangerous and deadly weapon and causing great bodily injury.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Joseph Brandolino of the Van Nuys Branch immediately sentenced Vasseghi to 25 years in state prison.

Vasseghi broke into the Woodland Hills home of former music executive Jerry Sharell and attacked his estranged wife and Sharell with a machete and a knife, the prosecutor said. Vasseghi cut Sharell's throat with the knife and cut the tip of his estranged wife's nose off before attempting to slash his own wrists, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Topanga Station.

###

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.