

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Engineer Sentenced for Former Girlfriend's Murder In Torrance 35 Years Ago

An Orange County engineer was sentenced today to 26 years to life in state prison for the 1979 first-degree murder of a nurse he dated briefly, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Douglas Gordon Bradford, who turns 63 on Saturday, was convicted in August of the Aug. 29, 1979, murder of Lynne Knight of Torrance. Bradford was taken into custody following the Aug. 14 guilty verdict.

Deputy District Attorneys John Lewin and Ethan Milius prosecuted the case.

The 28-year-old nurse had been stabbed more than 15 times and strangled with a homemade wire garrote that was found underneath her body in her Anza Avenue apartment. Lewin said Bradford and the victim, who was originally from Canada, had dated and later broken up. At the time, he was a California State Long Beach engineering student.

Superior Court Judge Curtis Rappe sentenced the Costa Mesa resident to the maximum after the victim's family addressed the court.

Lewin said old-fashioned police work by detectives from the Torrance Police Department's Cold Case Unit eventually helped solve the case, which was filed in May 2009.

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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](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.