

Jackie Lacey

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



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Sarah Ardalani, Public Information Officer
Media Relations Division
213-974-3525

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Man Sentenced in Pomona Traffic Fatality

An Apple Valley man convicted in October of killing a bystander during a high-speed police pursuit was sentenced yesterday to prison, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Brian Vance Coleman, 35, was sentenced to 46 years to life in state prison by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Mike Camacho of the Pomona Branch. Coleman also was ordered to pay more than \$9,000 in restitution for funeral expenses.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Matoba said Coleman was convicted by a jury of five charges: second-degree murder, gross vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, evading an officer causing death, leaving the scene of an accident and unlawful taking of a vehicle with a prior.

On July 29, 2012, Coleman led Claremont police on a high-speed chase while driving a stolen Ford F350 truck. Authorities tried to stop Coleman, but he continued going at speeds of more than 70 miles per hour on surface streets. During the pursuit, Coleman ran several red lights and careened through traffic, the prosecutor said.

As Coleman ran a red light on Towne and La Verne Avenues in Pomona, he collided with Jesus Mercado-Bulgarin, 54. The victim was driving at a green light, going under 20 MPH, when he was broadsided by Coleman.

At trial, coroner's officials testified that Mercado-Bulgarin died within five minutes after the crash from injuries sustained in the collision. Following the fatal crash, Coleman fled the area, and smashed into a tree. He was later apprehended by police after a short foot pursuit.

Evidence presented at trial revealed that the 2012 chase was the second police pursuit involving Coleman. In 2005, he fled from the California Highway Patrol in Fontana in a stolen car.

In a tragic series of events, the victim's wife was killed in a car accident at the same intersection, approximately 10 weeks prior to his death.

Claremont and Pomona police departments investigated the case.

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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](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.