

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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June 3, 2016

Man Sentenced to LWOP for Decades-Old Slayings of Two Redondo Beach Men

A 48-year-old man was sentenced today to life in state prison without the possibility of parole for kidnapping and murdering two Redondo Beach men two decades ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

In May 2014, jurors found Howard Bruce Bloomgarden guilty of two counts each of first-degree murder and kidnapping for extortion in case BA128564. Jurors also found true a special circumstance allegation that the murder was committed during the course of a kidnapping.

Deputy District Attorney Geoffrey Lewin, who prosecuted the case, said Bloomgarden orchestrated the kidnapping and murders of Peter Kovach, 26, and Ted Gould, 29, in October 1994.

The two victims were abducted from a Torrance telecommunications store where they both worked. They were taken to a motel room in Lawndale where they were killed by Kenneth Friedman. Their bodies were later discovered in San Diego County.

Bloomgarden, who ran a drug ring, ordered the murder of Kovach, a one-time drug dealer, over a fallout between the two, Lewin said. Gould also was killed to ensure there was not a witness to the crimes, the prosecutor said.

Friedman was convicted and sentenced to death. He died on Death Row in August 2012. Three others also were convicted and are serving state prison terms.

The case was investigated by the following agencies: Torrance, New York and Miami Dade police departments; Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation; Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.