

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Former Elementary School Principal Found Guilty of Murder for DUI Crash**

A former elementary school principal from Pearblossom has been found guilty of a DUI murder in the Palmdale area, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Thomas Hilton said a jury yesterday found Mary Noel Kruppe, 37, guilty of one count each of second-degree murder and gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated in case MA075130.

Sentencing is scheduled on Feb. 20 in Department A21 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch. She faces 15 years to life in state prison.

On the night of Nov. 15, 2018, Kruppe was driving southbound on 50<sup>th</sup> Street East, north of Avenue P when she veered left into oncoming traffic, according to evidence presented at the trial. This caused a head-on collision with a vehicle being driven in the opposite direction by Jessica Ordaz, 29, of Lancaster, who died of her injuries.

At the time, the defendant was the principal at Enterprise Elementary in Lancaster.

The case was investigated by the California Highway Patrol, Lancaster 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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.