

# Jackie Lacey

District Attorney

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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Former Elementary School Principal Sentenced for DUI Murder**

A former elementary school principal from Pearblossom was sentenced today to 15 years to life in state prison for a DUI murder in the Palmdale area, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

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

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.

Kruppe's blood alcohol content was measured at 0.19 percent two hours after the accident, the prosecutor said. 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.