

# Jackie Lacey

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



NEWS RELEASE

## Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani  
Public Information Officer  
213-257-2000  
[SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov](mailto:SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov)  
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

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## Man Sentenced to Prison for Fatal West Covina Collision

A Covina man was sentenced yesterday to 63 years to life in state prison for a hit-and-run collision that resulted in his passenger's death, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On Dec. 15, 2017, Angel Rojo, 28, was convicted of five counts in case KA105000: second-degree murder, petty theft, dissuading a witness by force or threat, prevent/dissuade witness/victim from reporting a crime, and hit-and-run driving resulting in death or serious injury to another person.

Additionally, jurors found true gang and great bodily injury allegations.

Deputy District Attorney Ross Alari, who prosecuted the case, said on March 8, 2014, several men, including Rojo, were partying at a West Covina apartment complex. As Rojo departed the area, he threatened and took property from a woman before fleeing the scene.

The defendant drove away with his friend, Manuel Ernesto Rodriguez, and traveled at high speeds on city streets, the prosecutor said.

According to court testimony, Rojo crashed his vehicle into a tree, killing Rodriguez. Rojo then threatened witnesses to the collision as he ran away from the scene, the prosecutor added. The defendant was apprehended by authorities soon after the crash in a nearby neighborhood.

The case was investigated by the West Covina Police Department.

### [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.