

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Inmate Sentenced to 25 Years to Life for 1997 Murder at LA County Jail

A 42-year-old man serving time for murder and robbery was sentenced today to 25 years to life after pleading no contest for killing an inmate at the Los Angeles County Jail in 1997, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jaime Vidales entered his plea to one count of murder and was immediately sentenced by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge David Horwitz.

Vidales was awaiting trial in county jail on murder and robbery charges when he strangled Miguel Sanchez in July 1997, prosecutors said. Sanchez, who was in jail on a pending sexual assault case, was found by a sheriff's deputy lying on a bunk bed in a dorm room occupied by inmates.

Prosecutors said Vidales was helped by another inmate to attack Sanchez but that man subsequently was killed in Los Angeles County Jail.

Vidales is currently serving a life sentence for the aforementioned murder and robbery.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau.

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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. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.