



**ROD PACHECO**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

### **Trial Underway in Biggest Elder Fraud Case in County History**

The trial of three men accused of bilking nearly 1700 senior citizens of an estimated

\$191 million began in August before Judge Ronald Taylor in Corona Superior Court. Daniel Heath, his father John Heath, and Denis O'Brien face numerous felony charges including elder abuse, grand theft, selling false securities, and money laundering. The men used a Ponzi or pyramid scheme in order to commit the fraud.

Many of these senior citizens invested and later lost their entire life savings in the scam. A fourth defendant, Larry Schlarmann, pled guilty and is now serving a 15 year sentence in state prison. He testified for the prosecution in exchange for his plea. The trial is expected to last through December. If convicted, the men could spend the rest of their lives in state prison.

## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

# **A VICTIM'S VOICE WILL BE HEARD**

## **Most Wanted Program**

Countless Riverside County victims remain without a resolution to crimes committed against them, their property or, their loved ones. A new Most Wanted program currently in development by District Attorney Rod Pacheco will give new hope to many of these victims.

This plan seeks to bring justice to victims by creatively using existing media outlets available to law enforcement to help encourage community participation in solving crimes and locating fugitives.

Tentatively scheduled to launch in February of 2008, the District Attorney's will provide information to the media weekly regarding unsolved crimes or outstanding fugitives possibly in



our community. A plan to expand to Western and Southwestern media markets in Riverside County is currently in development.

Often times, the public holds the key to solving some of the most complex crimes. "Connecting information from the public and partnering it with

information from investigators may help solve some of these troubling crimes and put our most dangerous fugitives behind bars," said District Attorney Rod Pacheco.

The District Attorney's Investigations Bureau has been working diligently to identify fugitives in the Coachella Valley to be featured in the program. Local print and television media will be working with the District Attorney to bring the program to the community. Each participating media outlet will direct viewers to contact an anonymous tip line if they believe they have information that may assist law enforcement in bringing justice to the most dangerous of offenders.

## **Arrests made in counterfeit music sting operation**

Seven people were arrested and a large scale illegal business in Mira Loma shut down for producing and selling counterfeit music recordings in early November. The arrests were made during a sting operation conducted by the DA's Office and the County Sheriff's Department in conjunction with the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Authorities seized more than

100,000 CDs valued at \$1.3 million in the largest seizure of its kind in Riverside County. All suspects have been charged with felony possession for sale of illegal CDs/DVDs. If convicted, they face up to five years in state prison and a \$250,000 fine. These sting operations are being conducted regularly in an effort to curtail and prevent consumer fraud.

## **Community Outreach**

### **DA College Academy**

The new student outreach program in which a small group of students are chosen (each Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer) to intern at the DA's Riverside office, the students will learn courtroom procedures, how to prepare for and work during a trial and assist on active cases when paired with their mentoring attorney. This program allows students considering a career in law to gain hands-on experience in the field.

### **Victim's Rights Week**

*(April 13-19, 2008)*

A weeklong event aimed at raising awareness for the victim's of violent crime. Last years event drew hundreds of family members of past victims. Highlights will include the Victim's Rights March through downtown Riverside followed by a ceremony featuring speeches from various community leaders and DA Pacheco in front of the courthouse.

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## Legislative Corner

*The following is a listing of key legislation sponsored or supported by the Riverside County District Attorney's office along with brief summaries of each bill, their authors, and current position in the State Legislature.*

### Sponsored by the DA's Office

#### **AB 565 Arson: registration**

**(Assemblymember Tom Berryhill, R-25<sup>th</sup> District)**

Existing law generally provides that any person who, on or after November 30, 1994, is convicted in any court in this state of arson or attempted arson shall be required to register, with the chief of police in the city where the person is residing, or the sheriff in the county in which the person is residing, for the rest of his or her life. Failure to register, as specified, is a misdemeanor. This bill would make failure to register under these provisions a felony. *Currently being held over as a 2-year bill.*

### Supported by the DA's Office

#### **ACR 59 Lieutenant Jared M. Landaker Memorial Highway (Assemblymember Paul Cook, R-65<sup>th</sup> District)**

This resolution designates a ten-mile segment of State Highway Route 38 near Big Bear in San Bernardino County as the Lieutenant Jared M. Landaker Memorial Highway. *PASSED*

#### **AB 348 Sex offenses: enforcement teams (Assemblymember Bonnie Garcia, R-80<sup>th</sup> District)**

This bill appropriates \$15 million (GF) to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) for allocation through Jan. 1, 2011 to county sheriff, probation, and city police departments who contribute officers to Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement

(SAFE) Team programs for proactive monitoring, tracking, and arrest of habitual sex offenders. *DEAD*

#### **AB 378 Elder and dependant adult abuse (Assemblymember John Benoit, R-64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District)**

This bill makes a subsequent conviction of theft, embezzlement, forgery, or fraud, regardless of value, by a caretaker against an elderly or dependant adult punishable by 2, 3, or 4 years in state prison or by a county jail term of up to one year. *DEAD*

#### **AB 416 Arson Registration (Assemblymember Bonnie Garcia, R-80<sup>th</sup> District)**

Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) on or before July 1, 2009 to make specified personal identifying in the arson registry available to the public on its Internet Web site including the last, first and middle name of the registrant and any known aliases; a photograph of the registrant; the registrant's physical description, including, but not limited to, sex, race, hair color, eye color, weight, and date of birth; and, the registrant's county of residence and ZIP code. *DEAD*

#### **AB 996 Parole hearings: victim testimony (Assemblymember Todd Spitzer, R-71<sup>st</sup> District)**

Requires that a victim, victim representative, or next of kin who appears at a regularly scheduled parole hearing, and that hearing is postponed at the request of the prisoner or prisoner's attorney, be allowed

to place his/her testimony on the record, to be preserved for introduction when the parole hearing is subsequently held. *DEAD*

#### **AB 1168 Social security numbers (Assemblymember Dave Jones, D-9<sup>th</sup> District)**

This bill imposes a number of restrictions on the use of Social Security numbers (SSNs) in public records, requiring they be redacted or truncated prior to filing or disclosure to the public by specified dates. This bill also requires the Office of Privacy Protection (OPP) to create a task force to review the use of SSNs by colleges and universities. *PASSED*

#### **AB 1235 Sex offenders: Internet Web site & GPS monitoring (Assemblymember Jean Fuller, R-32<sup>nd</sup> District)**

This bill requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to post additional information on its Megan's Law Web site, specifically, whether a registered sex offender is on parole for the registerable offense, and whether the offender is being monitored by a Global Positioning System (GPS) device or other electronic means. *DEAD*

#### **SB 194 Sex offenses: Internet: public information (Senator Jim Battin, R-37<sup>th</sup> District)**

SB 194 would add persons convicted of felony child pornography crimes to those required to post offender information on the Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Megan's Law website. *DEAD*

*For more information on these bills, or for any legislative questions relating to the District Attorney's office, please contact Kelly Jay at (951) 955-0933 or email her at KellyJay@RivCoDA.org.*

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