



Riverside County District Attorney

# CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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For Immediate Release  
Aug. 14, 2014

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## THREE PEOPLE ENTER GUILTY PLEAS AND ORDERED TO PAY RESTITUTION IN CASES INVOLVING SALES OF COUNTERFEIT CDs AND DVDs

MURRIETA – Three cases involving the sales of counterfeit items recently resolved resulting in restitution being ordered totaling nearly \$20,000.

The three defendants were arrested in March when the Riverside County District Attorney's Office and several other agencies conducted an intellectual property rights enforcement operation at a swap meet at the corner of Winchester and Newport roads in Southwest Riverside County.

Abel Angel Veliz, DOB: 5-31-69, of Highland, entered a guilty plea to one felony count of failure to disclose origin of recording for audio CDs he was selling at the swap meet. He was sentenced to 150 days in custody and three years of formal probation. He was also ordered to pay \$15,687 in restitution for investigative costs and loss to the Recording Industry Association of America. The full amount has been collected.

Uriel Cortes, DOB: 9-13-83, of Huntington Park; and Patricia Tapia Ocampo, DOB: 5-6-68, of Corona, each pled guilty to one misdemeanor count of failure to disclose origin of recording for DVDs they were selling at the swap meet. Each was sentenced to 60 days in custody and three years of summary probation. Cortes was ordered to pay \$1,185 in restitution for investigative costs and loss to the Motion Picture Association of America of which \$1,000 has been collected. Ocampo was ordered to pay \$1,241 in restitution for the same of which \$241 has been collected.

All three pleas and sentencing happened on Aug. 12, 2014, before Judge Paul Dickerson at the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta.

There are cases still active for others who were arrested during the enforcement operation at the swap meet. Those cases involve the alleged sales of counterfeit items including handbags, sports jerseys, headphones and CDs.

According to an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) seizure report issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security in fiscal year 2013, the number of IPR seizures increased nearly 7 percent from fiscal year 2012 and the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of those seized goods increased 38 percent from 2012 to an estimated \$1.7 billion.

The three local cases which recently resolved were prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Homan Hosseinioun of the DA's Consumer Fraud Unit.