



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
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### DA MIKE HESTRIN ANNOUNCES 2017 PRIDE AWARD RECIPIENTS

**RIVERSIDE** –Each year, the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office recognizes the outstanding work done by its employees at its annual PRIDE Awards ceremony.

PRIDE, the Program Rewarding Incentive of District attorney Employees, honors attorney and non-attorney staff for demonstrating extraordinary responsibility, professional development, productivity, dedication, initiative, a positive attitude, quality of work, dependability, cooperation, attendance, and public demeanor.

“The core values of this office include integrity, quality, teamwork, and service,” District Attorney Mike Hestrin said. “The people we recognize with these awards truly embody those core values in the extraordinary work they do to ensure that justice is done in our county every day.”

The 2017 PRIDE Awards banquet was held the evening of Feb. 23, 2018, at Wilson Creek Winery & Vineyards in Temecula Valley Wine Country.

The cost of the awards and banquet was entirely covered by money raised through fundraisers held within the office.

Here is the list of recipients:

Area	Award	Name
Countywide	Prosecutor of the Year	Elan Zektser
Countywide	Lifetime Achievement Award	Elise Farrell
Countywide	Misdemeanor Prosecutors of the Year	Brian Ferguson Sterling Winchester
Countywide	Special Prosecutions Section Prosecutor of the Year	Matt Murray Erika Mulhere
Countywide	Special Prosecutions Section Award of the Year	Dave Jones Matt Borden
Countywide	Paralegal of the Year	Esperanza Garcia
Countywide	Investigator of the Year	Jose Guerrero
Countywide	Technician of the Year	Lisa Vinton
Countywide	Advocate of the Year	Sherri Marcus
Countywide	Clerical Employee of the Year	Misty Lara

Group/Unit	Community Hero Award: Crisis Response Team	Patty Cardenas Katie Gilbertson Jeanette Hunter Monica Kincade Carla Aguilar Donna Carper Missy Castillo Barbara Dreis Kim Franklin Rosa Gutierrez Melissa Hernandez Sherri Marcus Lori Markin Kristin Merrill Karina Meza-Vazquez Alex Morales Julio Perez Cammie Sohm Ajaypal Virk
Group/Unit	DA Leadership Award: Crime Prevention Unit	Gerry Lopez Hunter Taylor Amir Alavi Evelyn Essenwanger Kristi Hester Stacie Mathews Vanessa Romero Kacey Sutton Sharon Shuster Mike Tripp Hawlee Valente Jasmine Marquez
Group/Unit	DA Achievement Award: Appellate Unit	Ivy Fitzpatrick Alan Tate Robert Hightower Natalie Lough Don Ostertag Michael Romney Kirsten Seebart Samara Silverman Laura Watts Esperanza Garcia Jessica Ramirez Kelly Hulen

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