



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

PAUL E. ZELLERBACH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

For Immediate Release
Jan. 7, 2014

John Hall
Senior Public Information Specialist
Contact: 951.955.8662

DA'S OFFICE HAS GRANT RENEWED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR DUI PROSECUTIONS IN SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY

RIVERSIDE – Today, Jan. 7, 2014, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved the second renewal of a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety that provides funding for a specialized team to investigate and prosecute all DUI-related homicides and DUI with injury cases in Southwest Riverside County.

The \$375,287 grant enables Riverside County District Attorney Paul Zellerbach to assign a specially-trained senior deputy district attorney and a senior district attorney investigator to prosecute all DUI cases involving death or injury from the original filing of the case through any trial. The grant also provides training to help combat the growing problem of driving under the influence of drugs.

Goals of this grant include reducing the number of persons killed and injured in DUI related traffic collisions, and increasing police officer and prosecutor expertise in DUI investigations and prosecutions.

This specialized team will coordinate and participate in DUI prevention and awareness programs such as "Every 15 Minutes" with local schools, law enforcement agencies, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Sr. Deputy District Attorney David Tahan and Sr. DA Investigator Joseph Cristinziani have been assigned to the unit since its inception in 2010 and have obtained almost 200 convictions. They will continue in the specialized unit throughout the upcoming year. Both are assigned to the DA's Southwest office in Murrieta.

The funding period for this grant runs from Oct. 1, 2013, through Sept. 30, 2014. Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the state Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.