



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp Salutes Judge James Chalfant for His Ruling Against George Gascon

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge, James Chalfant, has sided with the Association of Deputy District Attorneys for Los Angeles County (ADDA) in granting a petition to stop LA County District Attorney, George Gascon, from forcing line prosecutors to dismiss sentencing enhancements charged pursuant to California's Three Strikes Law. Judge Chalfant's ruling also bars Gascon from requiring prosecutors to dismiss special circumstances allegations in active cases that could result in sentencing a defendant to life without parole. The order further prohibits the dismissal of any other enhancements in an active case absent a legal basis for arguing that doing so would serve the interests of justice. Chalfant's ruling makes clear that Gascon cannot order his prosecutors to ignore laws that protect the public from repeat offenders

Statement of Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp:

"Today Judge Chalfant stood up to George Gascon and his illegal directives that seek to threaten the safety of the people of Los Angeles County, and all residents of California. Gascon is not a criminal justice reformer. He is an anarchist. He is a rogue that is disguising himself as a District Attorney. He isn't in office to promote public safety, to assist victims of crime, and to help keep children out of gangs. He is there to push an agenda that protects violent gang members, career criminals, and those who have a reckless disregard for human life. Today, I salute Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Chalfant for ordering George Gascon to abide by the law."

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office will continue to support the outstanding prosecutors of the ADDA in their efforts to protect their communities by upholding the rule of law. Chalfant's ruling validates their efforts by finding that Gascon's policies were unlawful and detrimental to communities disproportionately impacted by higher crime rates and victimization.

The media may email FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov with any questions.

February is "Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month"

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