

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



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August 21, 2012

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

**August 21, 2012**

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES ADDITION  
OF DOG TO PROVIDE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO VICTIMS AND WITNESSES**

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that, effective August 21, 2012, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, located in the city of Santa Barbara, will have a full-time dog, Malvern, available to provide emotional support to victims and witnesses of crimes.

Malvern will provide comfort to victims and witnesses with psychological, physical or emotional trauma resulting from criminal conduct. The use of a dog represents a unique addition to how the District Attorney's Office meets the emotional needs of victims and witnesses as they go through our criminal justice system.

District Attorney Dudley stated, "At no additional cost to our county, Malvern's calming presence will help create a more compassionate environment for victims and witnesses of crimes perpetrated against our most vulnerable population."

Malvern is a 2-year-old black Labrador Retriever/Golden Retriever cross that has been professionally trained by Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), a non-profit organization. He will be cared for by a volunteer attorney and will be made available to our interested victims and witnesses when visiting the District Attorney's office. If this innovation is successful, the District Attorney will seek to expand the program to both her Lompoc and Santa Maria locations.

**About Canine Companions for Independence:**

Canine Companions for Independence provides highly-trained assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities. Established in 1975, Canine Companions has five regional training centers across the country. Canine Companions is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. For more information, visit [www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org) or call 1-800-572-BARK.

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