

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Re: *People v. Ronald Larry Ledesma; Case #17CR01821*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that 59-year-old Ronald Larry Ledesma, now faces a prison sentence of 63 years to life as a result of a Santa Barbara jury returning multiple guilty verdicts Wednesday afternoon in a sexual assault case.

Specifically, the jury found Defendant Ledesma guilty of rape of an intoxicated person, sexual penetration of an intoxicated person, and two counts of battery. The jury also returned true findings on special allegations that the defendant was previously convicted of two robberies and previously served several terms in prison.

On November 5, 2015, the defendant took Jane Doe, a severely intoxicated homeless woman, from outside of a shelter, back to his RV, where he sexually assaulted her.

The next morning Jane Doe went to Cottage Hospital to seek treatment. Once there, she reported the rape to officers of the Santa Barbara Police Department.

District Attorney Dudley stated, "Based upon the courage of Jane Doe, and the thorough investigation by officers from the Santa Barbara Police Department, the Department of Justice Crime Laboratories, and multiple employees of the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, led by Deputy District Attorney, Jennifer Karapetian, the defendant was arrested, tried, and brought to justice. Thus, culminating his inability to ever harm another vulnerable victim again."

Prosecuting attorney Jennifer Karapetian commended the jury for their hard work and dedication to the case, and further stated, "This verdict demonstrates that our laws protect all victims equally, despite their socioeconomic backgrounds, wealth, or class."

The Defendant will be sentenced by the Honorable Judge Michael Carrozzo on October 2 at 1:30 p.m. in Department 12 of the Santa Barbara Superior Court.
