

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 09-257

RELEASE NUMBER

September 5, 2014

RELEASE DATE

*Joyce E. Dudley*  
APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Gary Gemberling, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT (805) 568-2372

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

September 5, 2014

**Re: People v. Leonel Gonzalez**

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Leonel Gonzalez, 26 years old, of Lompoc, pled "no contest" to one felony count of Insurance Code section 1871.4(a)(2), commonly known as Workers' Compensation Fraud. An investigation by Detective Rebekah McClain of the Valencia office of the California Department of Insurance Fraud Division revealed that Gonzalez was very physically active despite his claims to the contrary. Surveillance video shows Gonzalez working out with a punching bag, doing martial arts, hitting a speed bag, using a shovel to dig a large hole, and then planting a tree. Gonzalez had told his doctor that his pain was so severe that he could not care for himself without assistance, that he was unable to work at all, and that his pain severely restricted his daily activities. Gonzalez also claimed to be unable to walk or stand for more than 15 minutes. However, he was captured on video tape shopping at Costco for over one hour and 15 minutes with no apparent discomfort, despite walking the entire time, pushing a shopping cart, and lifting large and heavy items.

District Attorney Dudley noted that, "Workers' Compensation Fraud is a crime that has far-reaching effects on businesses and consumers in Santa Barbara County. Therefore, our office will continue to rigorously prosecute those who violate these laws."

Gonzalez will be sentenced on October 16, 2014 in Department 10 of the Superior Court. He will be ordered to serve 180 days in County jail, be placed on a 3 year probation, and be ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$31,780.00.

\* \* \* \* \*

□ SANTA BARBARA OFFICE  
1112 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2300  
Fax: (805) 568-2398

□ SANTA MARIA OFFICE  
312-D East Cook Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
(805) 346-7540  
Fax: (805) 346-7588

□ LOMPOC OFFICE  
115 Civic Center Plaza  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
(805) 737-7760  
Fax: (805) 737-7732