

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



DA 03-96
RELEASE NUMBER
March 22, 2012
RELEASE DATE
Joyce E. Dudley
APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Joyce E. Dudley, District Attorney
CONTACT PERSON (805) 568-2300

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

March 22, 2012

Re: *People v. Michael Corella, Jr.*
3 year, 8 month prison sentence for attempting to purchase a firearm

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley announced today that “In an effort to reduce gun violence in Santa Barbara County, we have begun to prosecute felons who *attempt* to purchase a firearm. I am proud to say that recently we have had our first successful prosecution.”

Convicted felon, Michael Corella, Jr., a 49-year old resident of Santa Maria, was recently sentenced to three years, eight months in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

An investigation was initiated when the Department of Justice notified the Santa Barbara District Attorney’s Office that Michael Corella, Jr., a person prohibited by law from possessing a firearm, had attempted to reclaim a handgun that he had pawned. Supervising District Attorney Investigator David Tonello obtained evidence that Corella had obtained a handgun out of state, pawned it at a local shop, and then attempted to reclaim the handgun. This resulted in the arrest and ultimate conviction of Corella for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The Santa Barbara District Attorney’s Office would like to remind the public that the mere attempt to purchase a firearm by a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm, due to a prior felony conviction or any domestic violence conviction, can and will be prosecuted.

* * * * *

□ SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2300
Fax: (805) 568-2453

□ 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