



PRESS RELEASE

Klamath County District Attorney's Office

Rob Patridge

District Attorney

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OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH TWO FOUND GUILTY OF MEASURE 11 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

On Wednesday, October 12, 2016, the Klamath County District Attorney's Office took two separate Measure 11 domestic violence cases to trial in front of Klamath County juries. Both juries returned unanimous guilty verdicts against the offenders, Patrick Lozano Diaz (DOB 3-11-1983) and Brandon Michael Burk (DOB 6-7-1983).

About the trials Klamath County District Attorney Rob Patridge said, "October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We do not normally do press releases in domestic violence cases to protect the privacy of victims and their families. However, as we try and raise awareness about the problem of domestic violence it is important to let the community and victims who have not yet come forward know that law enforcement takes domestic violence seriously and there is safety and security for victims and their families. In the Burk matter had it not been for the intervention of the community, despite the defendant yelling "snitches get stitches," the case would not have come forward."

Further Patridge said, "Both of these cases were difficult matters and could have easily been swept aside if not for the dedicated work of our law enforcement professionals. In 2015, our office received over 256 domestic violence cases for review. It is a huge problem. I'm proud of the hard work of our Deputy District Attorneys and how dedicated they are to breaking the cycle of domestic violence. Both of these defendants are looking at a minimum 70-month mandatory minimum Measure 11 sentence."

The Diaz matter occurred on March 5, 2016. The Klamath County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 hang up telephone call. When Deputy Scheen responded to the scene he found the victim wordlessly mouthing "Help me." The investigation revealed the defendant had stabbed the victim with keys multiple times so hard that she bled from three wounds on her body. Deputy District Attorneys Alison Martin and Sarah Holloway tried the matter. About the case Deputy District Attorney Martin said, "We achieved a fantastic result and are optimistic that this victim can move forward with her

life now that the offender is on his way to prison.” Diaz’s prior criminal history includes prior convictions for battery upon a family member and accessory to murder. Sentencing for Diaz is scheduled for October 25th in front of Judge Roxanne Osborne.

The Burk matter resulted from the Klamath Falls Police Department responding to a 911 call on July 3, 2016, for harassment by the defendant on the victim. Subsequent investigation by Officer Snyder revealed that in April of 2016 the defendant had shattered the victim’s ankle by throwing her to the ground. Her injuries required surgery. Deputy District Attorney Carrie Wineland tried the matter and said about the case, “This is a classic example of the cycle that occurs in domestic violence. Victims are seriously injured and then forgive and the pattern repeats itself. Without strong community involvement and the commitment of law enforcement, it is oftentimes difficult to break the cycle. Our victim today is now safe and can move forward.” Burk’s prior criminal history includes convictions for assault, menacing, burglary and unlawful use of a weapon. Sentencing for Burk is scheduled on November 1st at 2:00 p.m. in front of Judge Dan Bunch.

The Klamath County District Attorney’s Office works closely with Marta’s House/Klamath Crisis Center to address domestic violence and sexual assault in the community. Victims can gain confidential information and support from Marta’s House by calling their 24-hour hotline at 541-884-0390.

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