

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS WOMAN FOUND GUILTY OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on October 19, 2016, Diana Barba, age 33, was found guilty by jury of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while unlicensed. The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Stephanie E. Hulsey.

On May 28, 2016 at approximately 4:30 a.m., Barba drove into a parking lot on the California State University Monterey Bay campus and parked her car diagonally in an exit lane. University police contacted Barba and immediately noticed all the objective signs and symptoms of impairment due to alcohol. Officers then conducted a driving under the influence investigation. A chemical breath test revealed her blood alcohol to be 0.18/0.19%, well over twice the legal limit approximately forty-five minutes after driving.

At trial, Barba testified that an unknown man briefly entered her vehicle, exited immediately upon her request, and then left a six pack of beer behind. She claimed to have been so terrified by this experience that she had no choice but to drive around the Peninsula for the next three hours, during which time she was also compelled to drink the stranger's abandoned beer. The jury rejected this defense.

Judge Hulsey sentenced the defendant to twenty days in jail and placed her on probation for five years.

The case was investigated by California State University Monterey Bay Corporal Thahn Nguyen.

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