

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
MONTEREY COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
AWARDED SPECIAL DUI PROSECUTION GRANT

October 31, 2016

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ed Hazel, Managing Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5076

Those arrested for DUI in Monterey County, especially repeat offenders and those involved in fatal or injury crashes, can expect to face highly trained, specialized prosecutors, thanks to a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety. The \$572,322 grant to the Monterey County District Attorney's Office will fund a Vertical Prosecution team that will work cases from arrest through conviction and sentencing.

District Attorney Dean D. Flippo in receiving the grant funding stated, "Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both is a very serious problem that every year results in the death and injury of innocent motorists and passengers. This grant funding will permit us to focus direct attention on the problem and bring those responsible to justice in a more efficient and effective manner."

Funding from this DUI Prosecution Grant will aid the District Attorney's Office in handling cases throughout each step of the criminal process, prosecuting both alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases. In fatal and major injury DUI vehicle collisions, members of the team may respond to the crash scene to be part of the investigation.

In the past year under the 2015-2016 OTS grant, the vertical prosecution team filed 264 felony and misdemeanor cases of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The office as a whole filed 1903 DUI cases.

Prosecution team members will work with the State's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program to expand knowledge and resources in the office by obtaining and delivering specialized training, including training in the emerging problem of drug-impaired driving. Team members will share information with peers and law enforcement personnel throughout the county and across the state.

The purpose of the program is to prevent impaired driving and reduce alcohol and drug-impaired traffic fatalities and injuries. In 2013 there were 4 deaths and 167 serious injuries as a result of DUI crashes in Monterey County.

"When there is a trained, seasoned and committed team working serious DUI cases, prosecutors get the positive results needed," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "The Office of Traffic Safety and Monterey County District Attorney's Office will be working together to help keep the streets and highways safe across Monterey County and the state." Funding for the program comes from a grant by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.