

NEWS RELEASE

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

October 31, 2018

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Marisol Mendez, Managing Deputy District Attorney
(831) 796-6045**

What can you expect if arrested for DUI in Monterey County? You may face a specially trained veteran prosecutor especially if you are a repeat DUI offender, cause injury or death thanks to a \$246,154 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety which will fund a vertical prosecution unit that exclusively handles DUI cases from arrest through sentencing.

District Attorney Dean D. Flippo stated "Funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety grant enables the Monterey County District Attorney's office to thoroughly investigate and prosecute both alcohol and drug impaired driving cases. Our specially trained prosecutor is notified immediately of major injury or fatality DUI collision and can respond to crash scenes to advise investigators of all legal avenues at their disposal."

In the past year under the 2017-2018 OTS grant the vertical prosecution team filed 95 felony and misdemeanor cases of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The Monterey County District Attorney's office filed a total of 1,715 DUI cases. This is the seventh-year the DA's office has received special funding and has had great success with this program.

Our specially assigned DUI Vertical Prosecution Program prosecutor is a veteran DUI prosecutor. She continues to work with members of the State's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program to ensure that specialized training to include training on the emerging problem of drug-impaired driving is delivered to other local prosecutors and law enforcement personnel throughout the county and state.

It is the goal of the California Office of Traffic Safety and the Monterey County District Attorney's Office to prevent impaired driving and eradicate alcohol and drug-impaired traffic fatalities and injuries. To date in 2018 there have been 47 DUI related serious injury cases and four fatal DUI collisions in Monterey County. The DUI Vertical Prosecution Program will continue to work to prevent such tragedies and be prepared to hold accountable those who drive impaired.

Funding for the program comes from a grant by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.