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SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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***District Attorney Receives OTS Grant for
DUI Prosecution Program***

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District Attorney Jan Scully announced today the receipt of continued funding from OTS for the vertical prosecution team that handles DUI cases involving death or injury, from arrest to sentencing, and prevention outreach efforts. This one-year \$970,000 grant comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The goal of this program is to reduce alcohol and drug-impaired traffic fatalities and injuries. In 2010, there were 42 deaths and 1,054 serious injuries as a result of DUI crashes in Sacramento County. With this grant, DUI offenders face specialized prosecutors that are highly trained to handle both alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases throughout each step of the criminal justice process. In fatal and major injury DUI collisions, team members may be involved as early as the investigation of a crash scene.

In the past year alone, the team successfully prosecuted 23 cases, all of which involved gross vehicular manslaughter, vehicular manslaughter and DUI with great bodily injury. In addition, 115 felony and 142 misdemeanor cases of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs were successfully prosecuted.

The vertical prosecution team includes two full-time prosecutors and one investigator. Funding is also provided for a criminalist to participate in DUI check points. The prosecutors work with the "California Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program" to increase their capabilities through specialized trainings, including training in the emerging problem of drug-impaired driving. Team members share information with peers and law enforcement personnel throughout the county and across the state.

The community awareness component will be conducted through the educational programs "Moment of Impact," "Real DUI Court in Schools," and "Every 15 Minutes," all of which are focused on the prevention of underage driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, texting, and cell phone use.

"DUI can be a violent, tragic crime," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. "This special team will help insure that no one falls through the cracks, and that the worst-of-the-worst offenders face a highly skilled, dedicated prosecutor."

DA Scully states, "The citizens of this county know all too well the devastating impact alcohol and drug-impaired driving collisions have on its victims, surviving family and friends, and the entire community. While I am excited about what we have already accomplished, the ongoing support of OTS will ensure we can continue to aggressively prosecute DUI offenders and prevent future victims."