



**GREGORY D. TOTTE**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Man Pleads Guilty to 2015 Murder and Attempted Murder in Domestic Violence Shooting**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Brandon Scott Ellis (DOB 1/24/86), of Katy, Texas, pled guilty to second-degree murder for the killing of Douglas Blasher of Ventura and premeditated attempted murder for shooting Alexa Payne of Oxnard. Ellis also admitted that he personally discharged a firearm in the commission of both crimes.

On December 17, 2015, after discovering that his former girlfriend, Ms. Payne, was dating Mr. Blasher's son, Ellis entered Mr. Blasher's home with a gun. When Mr. Blasher confronted Ellis, Ellis shot and killed him. Ellis then shot Ms. Payne nine times. She survived the shooting. Ellis fled to Mexico, where he was arrested.

Ellis will be sentenced on June 17, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 23 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Ellis remains in custody with no bail. He is expected to be sentenced to 72 years to life in prison. This case was investigated by the Ventura Police Department.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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