



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

vcdistrictattorney.com

Twitter: @VenturaDAOoffice

Contact: Patrice Koenig
Senior Deputy District Attorney
Telephone: (805) 654-2499
E-mail: Patrice.koenig@ventura.org
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Man Sentenced to Life for 2015 Murder and Attempted Murder

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that on June 17, 2019, Brandon Scott Ellis (DOB 01/24/86), formerly of Ojai, was sentenced to 72 years to life in prison by Judge Anthony Sabo. On May 24, 2019, Ellis pled guilty to second-degree murder for the killing of Douglas Blasher and premeditated attempted murder of Alexa Payne. Ellis also admitted that he personally discharged a firearm in the commission of both crimes.

On December 17, 2015, after discovering that his estranged girlfriend, Ms. Payne, was dating Mr. Blasher's son, Ellis entered Mr. Blasher's Ventura home with a gun. When Mr. Blasher confronted Ellis, Ellis shot and killed him. Ellis then shot Ms. Payne nine times as their one-year-old daughter stood nearby. Ellis fled to Mexico and was apprehended when Ventura residents, who were vacationing in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, saw Ellis at a bar and recognized him from a news release posted on social media by the Ventura Police Department.

The case was investigated by the Ventura Police Department. Nine Ventura police officers received Medal of Valor awards for their heroic actions in removing the gravely injured Ms. Payne from the residence and saving her life.

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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. Follow the Ventura County District Attorney's Office on Twitter @VenturaDAOoffice