



ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

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**District Attorney's Office Awarded Grant Funds from California Office of Traffic Safety to
Prosecute Alcohol and Drug DUI Offenders**

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that the Ventura County District Attorney's Office will have a specialized prosecution team that handles alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases through a \$371,500 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

“Impaired driving is a growing problem, particularly with drivers suspected of operating a vehicle under the influence of both alcohol and drugs,” District Attorney Erik Nasarenko said. “This program allows us to focus specifically on holding those who decide to drive impaired accountable for their dangerous actions.”

The specialized prosecution team will also partner with the statewide Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Training Program (TSRP) to provide training to other prosecutors and investigators, as well as collaborate with law enforcement agencies on best practices handling and managing driving under the influence (DUI) cases.

This is the eleventh consecutive year the District Attorney's Office has received funding from the OTS for a specialized DUI prosecution program. Last year, the prosecution team filed 504 felony and misdemeanor DUI cases, including 320 DUI drug cases and 107 DUI combined alcohol and drug cases.

The grant program runs through September 2022. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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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 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.