



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Sophisticated Burglary Crew Sentenced for Multi-Million Dollar Simi Valley Heist

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that three of the four members of a sophisticated burglary crew were sentenced on February 20, 2026. The crew is responsible for the coordinated commercial burglary on May 25, 2025, at 5-Star Jewelry & Watch Repair and Dr. Conkey's Candy and Coffee Shop in Simi Valley.

Manuel David Ibarra and Camilo Antonio Aguilar Lara were each sentenced to four years four months in the Ventura County Jail. Heidi Trujillo was sentenced to four years in jail. The fourth defendant, Sergio Andres Mejía-Machuca, had his sentencing hearing continued to March 26, 2026.

“The planning, surveillance, and sophistication involved in this case required the defendants’ removal from society,” District Attorney Nasarenko said. “Ventura County will not tolerate organized burglary crews that treat our communities like targets. If you engage in this kind of conduct, you will face significant consequences.”

Ibarra, Lara and Mejía-Machuca each pled guilty in Ventura County Superior Court on January 21, 2026, to felony counts of conspiracy to commit commercial burglary and possession of stolen property. Ibarra and Machuca also pled guilty to conspiracy to commit commercial burglary and felony vandalism in connection with a burglary that occurred on May 23, 2025, at Simi Valley Pawn Brokers. Trujillo pled guilty to a single count of conspiracy to possess stolen property for her role in the heist.

All four defendants also admitted special allegations, including excessive loss exceeding \$1 million and theft or damage committed in concert with others. These enhancements were charged under voter-approved Proposition 36. In addition, the defendants admitted the aggravating factor that the manner in which the crimes were carried out demonstrated planning, sophistication, and professionalism.

The investigation revealed that beginning in mid-May 2025, the defendants orchestrated a coordinated burglary conspiracy targeting 5-Star Jewelry. On May 16, one defendant drove another to a Home Depot, where rope was stolen for use in the crime. On May 20, three people traveled in a white Volvo SUV to the shopping center housing both businesses. During that visit, two defendants conducted surveillance by observing the interior of the jewelry store through its front window, while the three later entered Dr. Conkey's Candy and Coffee Shop to assess surveillance cameras and inspect the shared walls between the businesses. One suspect used a cell phone flashlight to examine the walls, another acted as a lookout, and a third allegedly mimicked the use of a spray can, indicating plans to disable security measures.



Manuel David Ibarra

On May 25, the defendants returned to the location in the same Volvo SUV, which contained a ladder and rope. One defendant placed the ladder against the exterior of Dr. Conkey's and cut through the roof to gain entry. Once inside, a surveillance camera was spray-painted, and the store's safe was accessed and cash stolen. The defendants then cut through a shared wall into 5-Star Jewelry, where they broke into a safe and stole jewelry, cash, and silver. The stolen property was later transported to a residence in Los Angeles County.



Camilo Antonio Aguliar Lara

The investigation was conducted by the Simi Valley Police Department.

Case: 2025014450

Defendant Information:

Manuel David Ibarra (DOB 09/17/87)

Sergio Andres Meji-Machuca (DOB 06/07/98)

Camilo Antonio Aguliar Lara (DOB 11/08/93)

Heidy Nickolt Trujillo (DOB 06/26/99)



Sergio Andres Meji-Machuca

Charges pled guilty to:

- PC 182(a)(1) – Conspiracy to Commit a Crime - Commercial Burglary
- PC 182(a)(1) - Conspiracy to Commit a Crime – Possession of Stolen Property
- PC 594(b)(1) – Vandalism over \$400

Special allegations admitted:

- PC 12022.6(a)(4) – Excessive loss over \$1 million
- PC 12022.65(a) – Theft or damage in concert
- CRC 4.421(a)(8) - The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism



Heidy Nickolt Trujillo