



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



Follow us @VenturaCountyDA
[DA.VenturaCounty.gov](https://www.DA.VenturaCounty.gov)

Contact: Joey Buttitta
Title: Communications Manager/PIO
Phone: (805) 767-3400
Email: Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov

Approved: BN
Date: September 15, 2026
Release No.: 26-129

Former LAPD Detective Pleads Not Guilty in 1994 Thousand Oaks Kidnapping

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that former Los Angeles Police Department detective and convicted rapist Michael Douglas Brambles (DOB 11/27/48), of Santa Maria, pleaded not guilty on September 11, 2026, in connection with the 1994 kidnapping for robbery of a Thousand Oaks business owner. Brambles is charged with kidnapping to commit robbery while personally using a firearm. The complaint also alleges several aggravating circumstances, including that the crime involved great violence, the victim was particularly vulnerable, the manner in which the crime was carried out indicated planning, sophistication or professionalism, and that Brambles engaged in violent conduct indicating a serious danger to society.

Brambles was arrested August 12 in Santa Maria by District Attorney investigators, with the assistance of the Santa Maria Police Department. Senior Deputy District Attorney Emily Reber, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office [Sexual Assault Kit Initiative](#) Unit, is prosecuting the case.

Brambles is scheduled for an early disposition conference on September 22, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He faces a maximum sentence of 12 years to life in state prison if convicted of all counts.

Case: 2026021380 – Court #: 26CF100217

Defendant Information:

Michael Douglas Brambles (DOB 11/27/48)
Santa Maria

Charges:

- PC 209(b)(1) – Kidnapping for robbery

Special Allegations:

- PC 12022.3(a) – Sex Offense – Use of weapon
- PC 290.006 – Registration for offenses committed out of sexual compulsion or gratification
- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism
- CRC 4.421(b)(1) – Defendant has engaged in violent conduct

