



OFFICE OF THE
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY BEGINS NEW DUI EFFORT

Shasta County District Attorney Jerry Benito is announcing the commencement of a new DUI investigation and prosecution grant to focus on felony DUI injury cases in Shasta County.

The new DUI Felony Injury Prosecution Program consists of two fully funded positions – a Deputy District Attorney to vertically prosecute felony DUI cases including repeat offenders, DUI with injury, and DUI cases involving a fatality. The team will also include a District Attorney Investigator to assist with further investigations on these cases. The anticipated result is an improvement in felony DUI convictions and a further reduction in DUI deaths and injuries which have been falling in recent years because of efforts from the District Attorney, local law enforcement and community groups to combat both misdemeanor and felony DUIs in Shasta County. Funding for this one-year program was provided by a grant in the amount of \$245,243 from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Shasta County District Attorney's Office has been the recipient of grants to combat misdemeanor DUI from the Office of Traffic Safety for the last 3 years. These grants have allowed the District Attorney's Office to dedicate a prosecutor to these cases. The result has been a dramatic improvement in the quality of cases prosecuted, increased conviction rate and a reduction in the number of DUI related deaths. For the first time, the OTS grant includes a District Attorney investigator to assist with investigation on the more complex felony cases.

The new team has already been called into action related to the death of 18 year old Kaisha Brewer on Texas Springs Road on October 7, 2010. The prosecutor and DA investigator have been and will continue to assist local law enforcement in the investigation into Ms. Brewer's death.

For questions related to the grant, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito at 245-6310.