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Shasta County's Felony DUI Prosecution Grant Is Renewed

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has awarded the Shasta County District Attorney's Office with funding for a full-time prosecutor and investigator to prosecute felony DUIs that occur in Shasta County. The grant is entitled Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driver Vertical Prosecution Program. This specialized team of a prosecutor and an investigator is designed to vertically prosecute alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases.

One prosecutor handling the case from start to finish is known as a vertical-prosecution system. This method of prosecuting cases is very effective, especially when there is a victim who has suffered a traumatic injury at the hands of an intoxicated driver. The team will also prosecute misdemeanor DUIs that are associated with felony charges. The goal of this award and this team approach is to reduce DUI deaths and injuries in Shasta County, making Shasta County's roadways safer for motorists and pedestrians.

The Shasta County District Attorney's Office has enjoyed great success in its prosecution of misdemeanor DUIs. Specifically, the office prosecuted 1,032 misdemeanor DUIs during the past federal fiscal year (October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012), obtaining convictions in 996 cases for a 96.5 percent conviction rate. Moreover, the office prosecuted 82 felony DUI cases with convictions in 80 cases for a 97.6 percent conviction rate. The office is very proud of its conviction rates and hopes for continued success with this new award.

"This grant will allow Shasta County to be better able to go after the worst-of-the-worst DUI offenders," said OTS Director Christopher J. Murphy. "Residents going to work, shopping, or just returning home to family and friends will be safer on the roads."

Shasta County District Attorney Stephen Carlton remarked, “The prosecution of drivers operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol has been and will continue to be a top priority of the Shasta County District Attorney’s Office.”

The youth outreach portion of the grant will allow prosecutors to work with young people in local schools to discourage underage alcohol use. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
