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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Guilty Verdicts in Two Separate Sexual Assault Jury Trials

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced convictions after two separate jury trials conducted this week by attorneys with the District Attorney's Special Victims Unit.

BF 173160 A: Erick Grayson: Cold Case, Third Strike Rape Conviction

On July 16, 2020, a Kern County jury returned a verdict finding the defendant, 44-year-old Erick Grayson, guilty of the single charged offense of Rape by Force or Fear, as well as additional enhancements kidnapping during the course of a forcible sex crime, and also found true that Grayson had previously been convicted of two prior serious or violent 'strike' offenses.

On September 20, 2012, the victim, a taxi driver, was waiting for fares at the Kern County fairgrounds when the defendant approached and asked for a ride. Shortly after, the defendant forced the victim to drive him to an isolated area in an empty field where he raped her in the back of the taxi-van. After committing the rape, the defendant pushed the victim out of the van and drove away, taking the victim's wallet and phone. The circumstances of the attack and time of night limited the victim's ability to identify the man who assaulted and raped her. The case went unsolved for two years until 2014, when a DNA from the case was identified as a possible match with the defendant in DNA databases. With that lead, defendant Erick Grayson was located, his DNA collected, and compared directly to the evidence. The DNA evidence established that Grayson was responsible for the rape of the victim. Investigation on the case included by the Bakersfield Police Department and the Kern County Sheriff's Department.

Grayson has a sentencing set for August 13, 2020 before the Honorable Brian McNamara, where he faces a sentence of up to 35 years to Life. The trial was presented by DDA Alexandria Ottoman, an DDA with the District Attorney's Special Victims Unit.

LF 011935 A: Maricella Delgadillo: Conviction for Sexual Assault of A Child Family Member

On July 15, 2020, a Kern County jury returned a verdict finding the defendant, 44 year-old Maricela Delgadillo, guilty of all three charges alleging inappropriate sexual acts with a child 14 years or younger. The child victim was a member of Delgadillo's immediate family. The sexual assault offenses occurred over a two*year period, beginning in 2017, and occurred at both a residence and motel in Kern County. The child reported the abuse to a school counselor, and the Kern County Sheriff's Department investigated the case.

Delgadillo's sentencing is scheduled for August 12, 2020 before the Honorable John Somers, where she faces a sentence of up to 9 years as a result of the felony convictions in the case. The case was prosecuted by DDA Stephanie Zigler, an attorney with the District Attorney's Special Victims Unit.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the convictions, stating "The pandemic has not stopped the dedicated attorneys in the Special Victims Unit from holding sexual predators accountable. I am proud of the work of our attorneys and our community's jurors continue to perform amidst these most challenging times. The apprehension and conviction of Grayson by DNA evidence shows that our investment in a world-class crime lab continues to pay dividends in making our county safer."