



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN**

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY



CONTACT:
SDDA Joseph L. Marcano
(661) 868-2389

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JLM

**Kern County District Attorney Awarded
DUI Prosecution Grant**

Bakersfield, Calif. – The Kern County District Attorney’s Office received a \$256,000.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a special team to prosecute alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated, “The California Office of Traffic Safety has been a vital partner with the District Attorney’s Office in reducing the injuries and loss of life caused by impaired drivers. This grant allows our local prosecutors to specialize and gain expertise in DUI cases, resulting in safer streets and helping ensure that justice is provided to all those impacted by this crime.”

“If you drink or use drugs and decide to drive, you put lives at risk,” OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. “This funding from the OTS makes sure that those who make the choice to drive under the influence are held accountable for their actions.”

In addition to forming a special prosecution team, funding will be used to:

- Develop protocols for handling cases through every step of the criminal process.
- Provide training for prosecutors and investigators through California’s Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program.
- Host quarterly regional meetings with law enforcement partners to improve DUI investigations and prosecutions.

This is the tenth year the Kern County District Attorney’s Office has received funding from the OTS for a DUI prosecution program. Last year, the prosecution team filed approximately 3,500 DUI cases, including 370 DUI drug cases and 114 DUI combined alcohol and drug cases.

The grant program runs from Oct. 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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