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**Kern County Jury Returns Guilty Verdict for Intoxicated Driver Who
Injured Two Passengers, Killed One**

People v. Cristian Adrian Escobar-Rodriguez: Kern County Superior Court Case BF194311A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County Assistant District Attorney Kenneth Russell announced a significant Office of Traffic Safety conviction. On May 22, 2025, a Kern County Jury found defendant Cristian Escobar-Rodriguez guilty of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, driving under the influence causing injury, driving with a 0.08% alcohol concentration causing injury, and driving without a license. It was also found true that Escobar-Rodriguez inflicted great bodily injury among other enhancements. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Katherynn Deleon.

On April 3, 2023, at approximately 1:58 a.m., Escobar-Rodriguez drove his vehicle with three victims in his car when he went straight on a curved road, causing the vehicle to go over a canal, through a fence, and flip twice before landing on the driver side. The front passenger suffered minor injuries, one back passenger suffered major injuries, and the other back passenger, Andrea Navarro, died as a result of the crash.

Investigation revealed that Escobar-Rodriguez drove 90 miles per hour just 1.9 seconds before the crash on East Belle Terrace in Bakersfield. The speed limit on the road was 45 miles per hour and the recommended speed when coming up to the curve is 25 miles per hour. Escobar-Rodriguez's blood results showed a blood alcohol content of 0.155%, nearly twice the legal limit.

Assistant District Attorney Kenneth Russell commented; "Escobar-Rodriguez made a choice to drive under the influence. Tragically, that decision resulted in the loss of one life and injuries to two others. For him, it has led to legal consequences that will alter his life forever. This incident serves as a reminder to our community - impaired driving has devastating consequences. We urge you to be responsible when getting behind the wheel."

Sentencing is set for July 1, 2025, before the Honorable Judge Tiffany Organ-Bowles in Department 8 of the Kern County Superior Court. Escobar-Rodriguez faces up to 15 years and 8 months in prison.

Cristian Escobar-Rodriguez:

