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Jury Returns First Degree Murder Verdict and Sanity Finding
People v. Raffi Daniellian: Kern County Superior Court Case BF182855A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction today. In a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Taconi, a Kern County jury found Defendant Raffi Daniellian guilty of one count of First Degree Murder with the use of a firearm.

On October 19, 2020, Daniellian went to his neighbor's house to address a dispute over a broken window. Daniellian waited at the victim's front door for over 2 minutes and rang the doorbell 5 times. Upon being acknowledged by the victim (Lavel Myers), Daniellian walked to the back patio where he immediately asked the victim if he was going to pay for his windows. Within seconds Daniellian fired eight shots at the victim, killing him. Doorbell footage at the victim's house captured Daniellian at the front door and running back to his house with a firearm after the shooting.

In 2022, Daniellian entered a Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity Plea. The jury returned with a verdict of 1st degree murder on September 17, 2025. The sanity phase began thereafter where the defense and prosecution presented experts on the matter of sanity. On September 25, 2025, the jury returned with a finding that the defendant was legally sane at the time of the murder. As a result of this finding, Daniellian will serve his sentence in the California Department of Corrections as opposed to a mental hospital.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Daniellian's premeditated killing demands full accountability with the appropriate prison sentence. I am grateful to the jury for their careful deliberation and for acknowledging the gravity of his actions in taking an innocent life."

Daniellian faces 50 years to life when he is sentenced before the Honorable Judge Charles Brehmer in Department 4 of the Kern County Superior Court on October 27, 2025.

Raffi Daniellian:

