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Deleon Found Guilty of Rape and Gym Parking Lot Kidnapping Among Other Charges
People v. Vincent Xavier Deleon: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF196138B

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a case involving the rape of a Bakersfield woman. On April 15, 2026, a Kern County Superior Court jury found Defendant, Vincent Deleon, guilty of all charges as alleged including rape, oral copulation by force, sodomy, rape with a foreign object, carjacking, kidnapping, robbery, conspiracy, dissuading a witness, assault with a semi-automatic firearm, and being a felon with a firearm. The case was tried by District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer and Deputy District Attorney Cyrus Shahbazian.

On December 15, 2023, the victim, an adult woman, was leaving the In-Shape gym on Coffee Road in Bakersfield. As she got into her car in the parking lot, Defendant Deleon, a complete stranger, wearing a mask, gloves, and armed with a firearm, opened the driver's door, pointed his firearm at her head and demanded that she move to the front passenger seat. Defendant Deleon then kidnapped the victim and drove her car to two banks where he demanded the victim to withdraw money using her debit card from the drive-through ATM. After obtaining \$500 from the victim's account, Defendant Deleon drove the victim, while repeatedly threatening to kill her, to various locations in rural Kern County. Defendant Deleon backed her car into a remote orange orchard off Maricopa Highway where he forcibly raped, sodomized, and orally copulated her against her will. After he completed the sexual acts, he drove the victim to the Vallarta Supermarket on Panama Lane and dropped her off, telling her that if she reported the crimes to the police, Deleon would kill the victim and her family. Defendant Deleon then used the victim's debit card at a Bakersfield store to buy himself clothing. Within two hours, Bakersfield Police located the defendant driving the victim's car. The defendant led police on a high-speed chase in which the defendant crashed the victim's car and fled on foot. The defendant was apprehended in an alley in East Bakersfield.

The case was investigated by the Bakersfield Police Department and the Kern County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation. The Kern Regional Crime Laboratory analyzed numerous forensic samples in connection with this case and gave opinions regarding the presence of DNA.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "My heart breaks for the victim, who like many others in

similar circumstances, must endure the lifelong pain inflicted upon her. I hope this verdict brings the victim some measure of closure as she continues on her path toward healing. As for Deleon, he will remain behind bars where he belongs, never again able to inflict such monstrous harm on anyone in the community.”

The case was tried before the Honorable Charles Brehmer in Department 4 of the Kern County Superior Court. Defendant Deleon’s sentencing date is set for June 24, 2026, in which he faces the potential of five consecutive life terms in state prison.

Vincent Xavier Deleon:

