



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

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

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY



CONTACT:
SDDA Michael J. Yraceburn
(661) 868-7529

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

Bakersfield, Calif. – The Kern County District Attorney will have a specialized team to prosecute alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases, thanks to a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

The \$244,028.00 grant is for a one-year period from Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated “We are pleased that the California Office of Traffic Safety is continuing its successful partnership with our office to enhance our ability to prosecute impaired drivers in Kern County. Having a team of specialized prosecutors, trained in the specific areas of impairment and collision reconstruction, has been demonstrated to lead to more successful prosecutions of these crimes.”

Grant funding will be used to develop a prosecution program focused solely on driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drug cases, provide training for prosecutors and investigators through California’s Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program, and coordinate with law enforcement to handle all steps of the criminal process.

This is the ninth year the Kern County District Attorney has received funding from the OTS for a DUI prosecution program. Last year, the prosecution team filed approximately 4100 DUI cases, including 401 DUI drug cases and/or 118 DUI combined alcohol and drug cases.

Impaired driving remains a major problem in Bakersfield, as well as throughout Kern County. As noted above in fiscal year 2019, ending on September 30 2019, over 4100 drivers have been arrested for driving under the influence in Kern County.

“Prosecution programs ensure drivers who decide to drive impaired and put others on the road at risk are held accountable,” OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. “Accountability is important in highlighting the dangers and consequences of driving under the influence.”

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

