



**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

SCOTT J. SPIELMAN
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MARK E. PAFFORD
CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

LISA S. GREEN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Michael Morea
(661) 868-2737

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by

Kern County District Attorney Lisa S. Green announced a sentencing on a significant case that occurred in Ridgecrest, California, in which the defendant was ordered to serve the rest of his life in prison. On September 10, 2018, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Michael Morea, a Kern County jury convicted Robert Mickel Byas of robbery having suffered prior violent felony convictions.

On July 27, 2017, the 38-year-old victim was walking in the 300 block of Wilson Road in Ridgecrest, California, when he was confronted by the defendant, Robert Byas. The defendant viciously beat the victim and stole the victim's backpack.

The defendant was convicted previously three times of robbery and one time of assault with a firearm, which qualified the defendant to be sentenced under the three strikes law. On October 10, 2018 the defendant was sentenced by the Honorable Kenneth Green to 16 years plus 25 years to life in state prison.