



**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

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

October 8, 2020

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Joe Cho
(661) 868-2340

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JAK
Press Release # 20-39

RE: Arson Trial Conviction: Daniel Moler, BF171636A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced convictions in a significant case today. On October 7, 2020, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Joseph Cho, a Kern County jury found Daniel Moler, age 57, guilty of arson of an inhabited structure with the use of an accelerant, sexual battery, and criminal threats. This case was investigated by the Arson Unit of the Kern County Fire Department and the Kern County Sheriff's Office.

During the evening of March 13, 2018 and early morning hours of March 14, 2018, Moler repeatedly went into a room of his East Bakersfield home that he rented to a pregnant tenant, age 24, and sexually harassed her over a period of three hours. The tenant rented the room, which was within Moler's home. Despite her consistent rejection of his advances, Moler touched intimate parts of her body. Moler also exposed himself to her and offered her money to touch him. When Moler's wife found out what Moler had done, she kicked him out of the house. Moler then poured charcoal lighter fluid in his bedroom, lit the fire, and fled the house. The tenant was inside her room unaware the house was on fire until Moler's wife, who had been next door, returned home and alerted the tenant. Both Moler's wife and the tenant were able to escape the burning house without injury.

When Moler was arrested two days later, investigators observed the hairs on the backs of his hands had burned off. Investigators further determined that Moler's claims that the fire was accidental and that he encouraged his wife to call 9-1-1 to report the fire were not true.

The sentencing date is set for November 4, 2020 before the Honorable John Oglesby. Due to Moler's prior convictions, which include attempted murder, arson, and escape from custody causing great bodily injury, he faces a potential sentence in excess of 25 years to life in prison.

Advised of the verdict, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented that "The work by the Kern County Sheriff's Office and the County Fire Department's Arson Unit in this case was essential to bringing this three-strike offender to justice. Unsatisfied that he couldn't take advantage of a woman half

his age, this defendant literally lit the house she was in on fire. This case is a reminder of why we need to have laws that appropriately punish criminals who refuse to stop committing dangerous and violent crimes.”

Daniel Moler:

