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**Jury Trial Verdict: DUI Vehicular Manslaughter: Richard McQuade, Kern County Superior Court
Case #RF008687A**

Bakersfield – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a DUI homicide case today. On Tuesday May 19, 2022, a Kern County jury found defendant Richard McQuade guilty of ten charges, including counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, driving under the influence of a drug causing injury (with an enhancement for inflicting coma on the victim), and possession of methamphetamine while armed with a loaded firearm. Deputy District Attorney William Schlaerth presented the evidence to the jury that yielded the conviction.

On the afternoon of May 14, 2021, Richard McQuade took Brooke Curry out for a “joyride” on his motorcycle down a residential street in Ridgecrest, California. The ride lasted only three blocks, at which time McQuade was speeding as he approached an intersection marked with a stop sign. He did not react to the intersection or the stop sign until it was too late, at which time he slammed on his brakes causing the crash that threw Curry from the motorcycle. Curry was air-lifted to Antelope Valley Hospital with a traumatic, and ultimately fatal, brain injury. She died three weeks later. McQuade had smoked methamphetamine at least twice that day and had an abuse level of that drug in his blood at the time of the crash. McQuade, a previously convicted felon, was in possession of methamphetamine, a glass pipe, and a loaded semi-automatic firearm at the time of the collision.

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the verdict, stating, “Driving Under the Influence of drugs is often just as dangerous as being under the influence of alcohol. Impaired drivers subject other members of the community, including an impaired driver’s own passengers, to risk of serious injury or death. When DUI collisions result in death or serious injury, the District Attorney’s specialized DUI prosecution unit handles cases to ensure that justice is achieved.”

A sentencing date for McQuade was set for Thursday, June 16, 2022, in front of Judge Charles Brehmer. McQuade faces a maximum sentence of 11 years in prison. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney William Schlaerth.

Richard McQuade:

