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Mothers Against Drunk Driving Honors City Attorney's DUI Prosecutor

Deputy City Attorney Jerrica Phillips Named MADD Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year

Deputy City Attorney Jerrica Phillips has been honored by the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving as its Outstanding Prosecutor of the Year for 2018.

Since joining the San Diego City Attorney's Office in June 2018, Deputy City Attorney Jerrica Phillips has prosecuted 11 criminal cases without a loss, including misdemeanor battery, failure to register as an arsonist, vandalism, possession of a controlled substance, and six driving under the influence cases.

“Even though there are countless transportation alternatives available at any given time, thousands of irresponsible individuals endanger lives each year by driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs,” stated City Attorney Mara W. Elliott. **“Jerrica Phillips’s aggressive prosecution of drunk drivers played a key role in our efforts to reduce the number of DUI-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities in the City of San Diego.”**

Below are examples of Jerrica's recent DUI convictions:

- In *People v. Timothy Wilson* (M237372), she convicted a driver who rear-ended a motorcyclist who was driving with a blood alcohol level of 0.13 percent. The defendant testified that he drank vodka from a flask after the crash.
- In *People v. Brian Taliaferro* (M237913), she obtained guilty verdicts for DUI and hit and run against a defendant who drove into a residential neighborhood, attempted a 3-point turn in the victim's driveway, and ran into the victim's parked truck. The defendant fled the scene and a neighbor chased him to his home 10 minutes away. Fragments of plastic from the victim's truck were found next to defendant's vehicle. A subsequent blood test showed defendant to have a blood alcohol level of 0.24 percent, triple the legal limit.
- In *People v. Rana Sanchez* (M246572), she convicted an intoxicated driver observed weaving on State Route 52 in the City of Poway with a blood alcohol level of 0.11 percent.
- In her most recent DUI trial, *People v. Patrick Arceo* (M248614), officers contacted defendant at a DUI checkpoint on Garnet Avenue. Checkpoint DUIs are difficult to prosecute because there is often no evidence

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of bad driving. The defendant exhibited few clues of impairment during the field sobriety test, and had a blood alcohol level just over the legal limit of 0.8 percent. Jerrica obtained guilty verdicts for DUI at trial.

Phillips is passionate about prosecuting DUI offenders and keeping the public safe from those who choose to drink and drive. She approaches her work with the utmost patience, integrity, diligence, and fortitude. Jerrica's strong work ethic and tenacity ensure that DUI offenders are held fully accountable in the City of San Diego. These trial results are a testament to her meticulous preparation and exemplary trial skills. **"MADD could not have picked a better Prosecutor of the Year,"** City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said.

Jerrica Phillips graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in May 2013. She served as a Deputy District Attorney in Weld County, Colorado from 2014 to 2017, and prosecuted over 30 felony and misdemeanor jury trials, including murder, sexual assault, domestic violence, drug possession, assault, burglary, and driving under the influence cases.

Phillips was honored this morning, Friday, May 17, 2019, at MADD's Law Enforcement & Prosecutor Recognition Ceremony at the Balboa Park Club in San Diego, California.

Keeping the roads safe for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers is a priority for City Attorney Mara W. Elliott, so she assigns highly trained, specialized prosecutors to DUI cases. In 2018, her office issued 3,039 DUIs, including 235 drugged driving and drug and alcohol combination cases, with an overall conviction rate of 99%. The City Attorney's Office is committed to preventing impaired driving and reducing alcohol and drug-impaired traffic deaths and injuries.

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EDITORS: A photo of Jerrica Phillips is attached for your use. Credit: Jerrica Phillips



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