



# San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **City Attorney's Office Awarded State DUI Prosecution Grant**

*Trial deputies will gain specialized expertise in handling DUI Drug cases*

**San Diego, CA:** Motorists arrested in San Diego for driving while impaired by drugs and alcohol will soon face prosecutors with special expertise in combating this growing problem.

The \$263,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to the City Attorney's Office will fund an Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving (ADID) vertical prosecution team that will work DUI cases from arrest through sentencing.

**"Too often, we're seeing drivers impaired by drugs, combinations of drugs, or alcohol and drugs,"** City Attorney Jan Goldsmith said. **"This grant will help our prosecution teams recognize signs of drugged driving, anticipate defense tactics, and deploy the latest advances in drug toxicology to keep dangerous motorists off the streets."**

**"By dedicating an experienced prosecutor and investigator to our most challenging cases, we expect to achieve stronger cases and stiffer sentences,"** Goldsmith said

The City Attorney's Office receives all misdemeanor DUI arrest reports occurring within the City of San Diego, excepting its South Bay communities, as well as Poway and 4-S Ranch. In 2012, it issued 5,752 cases involving charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Funding from this DUI Prosecution Grant will aid the City Attorney's Office in handling cases throughout each step of the criminal process, prosecuting both alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases.

Prosecution team members will work with the State's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program to expand knowledge and resources in the office by obtaining and delivering specialized training, including training in the emerging problem of drug-impaired driving. Team members will share information with peers and law enforcement personnel throughout the county and across the state.

The purpose of the program is to prevent impaired driving and reduce alcohol and drug-impaired traffic fatalities and injuries. In 2012 there were 86 deaths and 2,317 serious injuries as a result of alcohol-involved crashes in San Diego County.

“California’s roadways are still among the safest in the nation,” said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. “But to meet future mobility, safety, and sustainability objectives, we must create safer roadways for all users. The City Attorney’s Office will be using these and other resources to reach the vision we all share – *Toward zero deaths, every 1 counts.*”

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

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