



San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott



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City Attorney Reminder this Labor Day, and Every Day: “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”

As Labor Day approaches, San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott warns community members and visitors not to turn a family holiday into a tragedy: “Drive sober or get pulled over.”

Through September 3 (Labor Day), police and sheriff’s departments throughout California, along with the California Highway Patrol, will participate in a high-visibility national enforcement campaign, [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#). During this period, there will be more officers on the road to stop suspected drunk or drug impaired drivers and motorcyclists.

While alcohol remains the worst offender for DUI crashes, the City Attorney joins the California Office of Traffic Safety in educating drivers that [“DUI Doesn’t Just Mean Booze.”](#) If you take prescription drugs, particularly those with a driving or operating machinery warning label, you may be impaired enough to get a DUI. Driving under the influence of marijuana may also result in a DUI, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs.

In 2014, DUI crashes in San Diego County caused 79 deaths and 2,154 serious injuries. In 2017, our Criminal Division prosecuted more than 3,000 alcohol, drug, and drug/alcohol combo DUI cases. Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, probation, fines, fees, DUI classes, license suspensions, and other expenses that can exceed \$10,000.

“Labor Day weekend is a time for friends and family to honor the contributions made by America's hard-working labor force, and to enjoy time with one another as summer comes to a close,” City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **“Sadly, Labor Day weekend can be one of the deadliest, with alcohol and drug impaired drivers endangering themselves and others on our roadways. Be forewarned: Anyone cited or arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in San Diego will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”**

There are so many options out there to get home safely. Plan ahead. Always designate a sober driver. Use public transportation or a ride sharing service to get home. Take the keys away from a friend or family member who is about to drive drunk or buzzed. And report drunk drivers – call 911!

Funding for the San Diego City Attorney’s DUI prosecution program is provided in part by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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