

CALIFORNIA SB9

2011

DANGEROUS

EXPENSIVE

RE-VICTIMIZING

UNCONSTITUTIONAL

AND

UNNECESSARY

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Letter from Daniel Horowitz

Regarding SB 9

Dear California Legislator,

Senator Yee's Juvenile LWOP bill, SB 9 has many unintended and extraordinarily expensive consequences. The bill is promoted as addressing an outrage of children, who often do not personally kill, being sentenced to a lifetime of imprisonment for indiscretions that arise more from immaturity than from any cruelty or moral absence.

However, as written, the bill will create an endless procession of lawsuits, evidentiary hearings, appeals, writs and enormous expert witness fees. The waste will be in the tens of millions of dollars over a few short years and it will be never ending. A well crafted bill could achieve the ends of the author but avoid the huge financial quagmire.

Some of the financial land mines arise from the vague description of the court's re-evaluation process for qualifying inmate.

First, you should be aware that virtually every inmate will qualify for full scale judicial review.

Those who attempt to qualify and are rejected will obtain court appointed counsel to file petitions challenging any summary rejection. As this bill revisits the original sentencing there is no question that these attorneys are required and will be state funded.

In almost all cases it will be an abuse of discretion not to consider the petition. In that case a full scale evidentiary hearing will be required.

The defense will argue that under federal law, (e.g. Apprendi et al.), the prosecution will have the burden of proof at the hearing beyond a reasonable doubt. Prosecutors will argue that both sentences are within the court's discretion and that the decision is within the discretion of the court.

This will be litigated for years.

Regardless of the burden of proof, the hearings will involve a revival of the original case. Witnesses will have to be located on sentencing issues (so old transcripts will not be sufficient). Past records, school records, IEP reports (if applicable) and other documentation will be obtained. Experts will be hired to perform neuropsychological examinations and psychological evaluations. Jail and prison records will be subpoenaed. All C-Files (Prison files) will be hand reviewed and redacted. Investigators will interview other prisons, staff etc.

The hearing will be a mini death penalty type hearing.

Senator Yee's bill delineates certain factors that a court must consider. These are all factors defined in SB 9 and they grossly favor the defendant. There is a catch all that allows the court to consider any other factors. This means that there is virtually no limit to what else can be used.

Each hearing will result in an appeal. The defendant has nothing to lose. He gets multiple hearings and multiple appeals on this point. The prosecution will likely appeal any determination favorable to the defendant. The appeals will be a mess. The bill does not speak of future dangerousness or threat of harm to the families of the victims or witnesses. What weight should that be given? More than the delineated factors? Less? Does it vary? This will be yet

another appellate issue that will be raised with bill. I have addressed the burden of proof issue but there are other issues as well.

Can the judge order a future dangerousness study? Must the defendant testify or can he/she be compelled to testify?

Another important issue is whether remorse is a factor to be considered? Senator Yee's bill redefines remorse so that it no longer means being sorry for or admitting to the crime. But what about a plain English definition of remorse? Can the judge expect the defendant to admit wrongdoing, confront it and admit it? Can a judge expect a truly reformed individual to provide information about other co-defendants? Other gang members? (If applicable) Can the failure to do these things be the basis of a rejection?

The appeals will be endless on these issues and they will reach the federal courts because federal rights are implicated.

The savings due to reduced incarceration cost argument is one that both offensive to me and disingenuous. It is not a good faith argument in my mind. Whenever "cost of incarceration" is quoted, the total costs are divided by the numbers of inmates. We get figures like \$ 30,000. What is ignored is that the release of inmates does not impact fixed costs, e.g. heating a facility, facility maintenance, lights etc. A real cost figure would assume the fixed costs and calculate the additional cost per inmate. That additional cost could include additional staff but in many cases it will not. Estimates I have seen for Juvenile LWOP offenders being released show a negligible financial impact based mostly on costs of food, medical care and other services.

No financial analysis considers the fact that over 50% of parolees are rearrested for serious crimes. Of course, one arrest is like one ant in your house. If you see one, there are probably many. The cost for police services, costs to insurance companies and new victims are ignored in these financial analyses.

As a criminal defense attorney for over 30 years, I am well aware of the pain that injustice in our system can cause. I am also aware of how easily the good intentions of many people can be misused by inmates, their families and by those who genuinely seek to accomplish something of value.

SB 9 will ultimately open the gates of Hell. It will free some people whose sentences are unreasonably harsh but it does so in a way that guarantees that serial killers and sociopaths will be free as well. The ambiguities in the bill and its imprecise language guarantee appellate litigation for years. The three attempt language and the major hearings will eat up precious court time and money.

There are many alternatives that are well written and targeted that could accomplish the goals of those who in good conscience, support the principles that underlie SB 9. We should be reviewing those proposals and ensuring that those who live to kill remain behind bars. The money that we save by a targeted bill can be used for education, fighting sexual abuse and helping preserve families. If we do that, we can fight injustice and prevent future violence. The present bill wastes money and creates a guarantee of future murders.

The Sacramento Bee reports that the average teacher salary in California is \$ 67,932 per year. This means that five full time teachers could be hired, for each attempt to release a murderer under Senator Yee's bill. Instead of the costly and cumbersome process created by SB9, the cost of a simple review of sentences by a panel of experienced jurists for potential miscarriages of justice would be a fraction of that amount. In egregious cases, such a panel could recommend a pardon by the Governor. The costs of this would be relatively minor and it would achieve the same goals – avoiding a miscarriage of justice. This simplified process would

spare the families of victims the endless torture of hearing after hearing where the death of their loved one is minimized and the self serving excuses of the killers are trumpeted as grounds for release. Under Senator Yee's bill, a person meets one of the criteria for potential release by writing letters to his family! Remorse, confession of guilt and cooperating against co-killers, is optional and barely mentioned in SB9. Sorrow for one's own situation is the focus of SB9 and not sorrow for the pain and horror inflicted by the killer. The bill is also so loosely written that virtually every killer, juvenile (or adult, except for the age requirement) would qualify under its criteria. Charles Manson, Scott Peterson, Ted Bundy would all qualify. The cost of the release of these type killers, (albeit ones who got caught before they were eighteen years old) will ensure that the cycle of violence will be renewed. Years in prison will not bring out human kindness in the hearts of these stone cold juvenile killers. What will be released will be 30-40 year old hardened criminals whose capacity for violence is unrestrained. When that cost is factored into the bill the \$ 381,000 cost can be multiplied 10 fold! Meanwhile, schools lack teachers and the very students who might be deterred from a life of crime are deprived so that Senator Yee and the proponents of SB9 can claim compassion. Real compassion is putting money and attention to child in need and children at risk. Ignoring the pain of the families of murder victims and freeing 40 year old sociopaths is not compassion.

Daniel Horowitz
California Attorney and Husband of Murder Victim Pamela Vitale

Myths v. Facts:

Incorrect Data Promulgated by the Proponents of SB9

Of the approximately 261 JLWOP cases in California, all the offenders were convicted of a special circumstance murder(s) committed when they were 16 or 17. Appellate courts have ruled JLWOP sentences can only be used in murder cases; thus, the proposed SB9 bill only applies to murder cases.

MYTH: 45 percent of our California JLWOP cases are felony murder cases in which the offender did not kill the victim.

FACT: Of the 195 murders reported in this information packet, only 22% statewide are felony murder cases.

24% of JLWOP offenders sentenced in Los Angeles County are from felony-murder. Los Angeles County has 104 JLWOP cases: the largest number of JLWOP offenders. Many of them are older cases and archived, thus my research is not complete in Los Angeles County and I still have 57 more cases to research there. See attachment. I have indicated which cases fall within felony murder with italics and provided short factual summary.

MYTH: Many JLWOP offenders were convicted of felony murder or for aiding and abetting because they acted as lookouts or participated in another felony during which the murder unexpectedly occurred. In addition, in many cases California has treated the youth worse than similarly situated adult offenders.

FACT: There are few lookout cases and few disparate sentences (*See List of Offenders by County*). Where there is a disparity, it is generally because the person receiving a lesser sentence was less culpable. In the cases in which the offender acted as lookout, there is generally some other aggravating participation in the crime itself which makes offender more culpable.

In research done thus far, 37% of cases were multiple murder cases and 23% of them had attempted murder victims as well.

3 LA County JLWOP offenders killed 2 Southern California law enforcement officers. A fourth offender beat his youth counselor to death with a table leg at a juvenile detention center. *In total, seven JLWOP offenders killed police officers in the performance of their duties protecting the citizens of this state.*

One of the 47 LA County JLWOP offenders has been convicted murder of another inmate while he was serving his LWOP sentence (See *Louis Gomez*). Of the 135 cases from other counties there are 4 other instances of cases where JLWOP offenders have been convicted of stabbing other inmates while serving their JLWOP sentence (I.e., *Kristopher Kirchner* of San Diego County).

MYTH: We are the only nation in the world that has JLWOP.

FACT: There are at least 11 other countries, including Australia and Israel, that have their versions of JLWOP. Other countries may not label their sentencing as life without parole, but

sentence offenders to hundreds of years which are not modifiable and exceed life expectancy. More glaringly, this myth is promulgated by **Human Rights Watch** which also reports on the countries that not only imprison persons under eighteen but also executes them. No other country affords the legal rights to juveniles that our country does.

Problems with SB9: The law is written so that virtually every offender will be able to meet at least one of the criterion which allows him or her a re-sentencing hearing based solely on whether he or she has performed acts indicating rehabilitation or potential for rehabilitation or has shown evidence of remorse. This low threshold will allow an offender to frame him or her petition in a way that will surely meet at least one of the criterions for a re-sentencing hearing.

There is also a catch-all provision in the factors to be considered at a re-sentencing hearing. Essentially any inmate who has exchanged letters and calls with a family member or community friend can have this factor considered. All inmates will undoubtedly meet these criteria. Even if Charlie Manson were a California JLWOP offender, he could meet the criteria for a review and re-sentencing.

Legislators have said repeatedly that the most heinous offenders will probably not have their cases modified. It is the victims, however, who will bear the emotional costs of these hearings, and the public will bear the financial costs of these hearings and inevitable appeals. Why? We now have a system that works. For example, on March 17, 2009, Brandon Hein's sentence was commuted by Governor Schwarzenegger, from life without possibility of parole plus four years, to 29 years to life with the possibility of parole. Sarah Kruzan had her LWOP sentence commuted to 25 years to life by the governor before he left office.

The new amended version of SB9 allows as many as four petitions and sentencing hearings for inmates incarcerated after 2000. Even those guilty of the most odious crimes will be entitled to four "bites of the apple"; this means four additional instances when the victims will be re-victimized. Each sentencing decision will be appealable. Nowhere in our State's criminal laws are inmates allowed such opportunities. Sb9 as amended allows inmates incarcerated before 2000 only two opportunities; indubitably the discrepancy in re-sentencing opportunities will be challenged by those pre-2000 inmates. The extant appellate remedies, habeas corpus and the clemency power of the Governor work. SB9 endangers the public and re-victimizes the victims.

California Penal Code 190.5 already gives the sentencing judge the option of a Life without the Possibility of Parole Sentence or 25 to Life Sentence if he feels proper.

Senator Yee's Press Release with Commentary:
Tuesday, April 05, 2011

Faith Communities Unite to Reform Life Sentencing for Youth

SACRAMENTO – Communities representing several major religions have united behind a bill to end life sentences for juvenile offenders. Today, their efforts resulted in the Senate Public Safety Committee approving legislation that would bring California in line with the rest of the world by ending life without parole (LWOP) sentences for kids.

No other country in the world outside of the United States allows children to be sentenced to LWOP. In contrast, there are approximately 275 people in California serving LWOP for crimes they committed as kids.

There are 9- 10 countries that have the equivalent of juvenile life without the possibility of parole although they may label it something else. There are also other nations who still execute people under eighteen and this information is itself published by Human Rights Watch.

Under Senate Bill 9 by Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), courts could review cases of juveniles sentenced to life without parole after 10 years, potentially allowing some individuals to receive a new minimum sentence of 25 years to life. The bill would require the offender to be working towards rehabilitation in order to submit a petition for consideration of the new sentence.

The law is written so broadly that if Charlie Manson were a teen killer who did some self study that indicated he may have the potential for rehabilitation and he wrote a family member or friend a letter, he could qualify to file a petition for a review. All of the 16 and 17 year old killers sentenced now to LWOP (app. 262 inmates) will qualify for this process including these examples proponents would have you believe simply made a bad choice. Teen killers who committed drive by murders of innocent groups of people shooting them down with AK 47s ; stabbing an 86 year old woman more than 100 times; killing four people in a family, including 3 under 17; running over an elderly man, showing off his body to friends while dancing and singing around it, urinating on the body before burning him; shooting a 8 month pregnant girlfriend and unborn fetus to death so you don't have to pay child support from your rapper earnings; crime rampages where you kill 5 people and shoot 2 others; beating a blind 90 year old woman to death. I could go on and on as many of these JLWOP killers murdered multiple victims. Some of them have been convicted of murder and attempted murder of other inmates while serving their JLWOP sentence. In other words, they are still violent inside the prison walls. See statistical summary attached to my e mail.

Yee's earlier attempt, SB 399, was approved with bipartisan support in the Senate but died during the final days of session in the Assembly.

Supporters of SB 9 include child advocates, mental health experts, and civil rights groups, but also include several communities of faith including Buddhist Peace Fellowship, California Catholic Conference, California Council of Churches–Church Impact (representing 21 Protestant denominations), Friends Committee on Legislation of California (Quakers), Lutheran Office of Public Policy, National Offices of the United Church of Christ, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Progressive Jewish Alliance, Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, and United Methodist Church, and Northern California Islamic Council, among others.

Last session, the legislation was also supported by most major newspapers including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Sacramento Bee*, *New York Times*, *Ventura County Star*, and the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

“The neuroscience is clear; brain maturation continues well through adolescence and thus impulse control, planning, and critical thinking skills are not yet fully developed,” said Yee, who is a child psychologist. “SB 9 reflects that science and provides the opportunity for compassion and rehabilitation that we should exercise with minors. SB 9 is not a get-out-of-jail-free card; it is an incredibly modest proposal that respects victims, international law, and the fact that children have a greater capacity for rehabilitation than adults.”

This misuse of the brain theory is refuted by many neuroscientists and legal experts. Advocates for SB 9 are misinterpreting the frontal lobe research. (See “Brain Overclaim Syndrome”) Their brain theory is also refuted by actual cases where JLWOP inmates such as Louis Gomes, serving LWOP under felony murder, was later convicted of stabbing to death another inmate while serving his LWOP sentence or JLWOP killer Kristopher Kirchner who was later convicted of attempted murder for stabbing another inmate. Sen. Yee says this isn’t a “get out of jail free card”. But it is mandatory torture for all the victims’ families who thought we had been given justice by juries, judges, and appellate courts, all who considered the evidence. Now that justice is being snatched away by the California legislature if this bill passes.

Prosecutors and judges have discretion on whether to pursue LWOP for juveniles. However, several cases call such discretion into question.

One such case involves Christian Bracamontes, who was 16 and had never before been in trouble with the law. One day when Christian’s friend said, “Hey do you want to rob this guy?” Christian replied in what can only be described as a quintessential adolescent response, “I don’t care.” When the victim refused to comply with his friend’s demand, Christian said he thought the bluff was called, and he remembered turning away and bending down to pick up his bike and leave, when he heard a gunshot.

This is from the actual court file of Christian Bracamontes of Riverside County:

Bracamontes was convicted of the murder of the fifteen year-old victim Thomas Williams during the commission of a robbery with a special circumstance finding that he participated in the robbery knowing that another principal was armed. He received life without possibility of parole for his role in the felony murder plus a one -year consecutive sentence.

Bracamontes and his co-defendant Jose Morales went to a wash basin to “tag”, along with the co-defendant’s younger brother. Before leaving, Bracamontes asked his co-defendant did he have his handgun with him, and encouraged Morales to bring the gun. Another group of four young males were at the wash basin to smoke marijuana. Bracamontes took the handgun from Morales’ backpack and stuck it in his sweatshirt. Bracamontes asked the victim if he had painted over his tag and the victim replied no. The victim then asked Bracamontes and his friends if they wanted to buy marijuana. They declined as they had no money.

The Bracamontes trio then discussed robbing the victim and his friends. Morales’ younger brother refused to take part in the robbery and left Bracamontes and Morales at the basin, telling them they were stupid. After

confronting the victim again, Bracamontes handed the gun to Morales who shot Thomas Williams during the robbery.

The prosecutor offered a lower sentence, but in Christian's teenaged mind he could not see how he would be responsible for the other person's actions and he turned down that deal. The DA was quoted in the newspaper as saying, "It's hard for teenagers to understand concepts like aiding and abetting." Christian was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Attempts have been made to reach the trial prosecutor to ask him about any plea offers as this information would not be in the court file and whether he actually made this comment, and if so, in what context.

A report published by Human Rights Watch found that in many cases where juveniles were prosecuted with an adult for the same offense, the youth received heavier sentences than their adult co-defendants.

The cases in California do not support this conclusion. Many adult co-defendants received the death penalty or life without possibility of parole. In those few cases, where an adult co-defendant received a lesser sentence, the 16 or 17 teen killers were likely more culpable.

Despite popular belief to the contrary, Human Rights Watch found that life without parole is not reserved for children who commit the worst crimes or who show signs of being irredeemable criminals. Nationally, it is estimated that 59% of youth sentenced to life without parole had no prior criminal convictions. Forty-five percent of California youth sentenced to life without parole for involvement in a murder did not actually kill the victim. Many were convicted of felony murder, or for aiding and abetting the murder, because they acted as lookouts or were participating in another felony, such as a robbery, when the murder took place.

Research shows that approximately 22% were convicted under felony murder doctrine. The case summary attachment describes those circumstances and the inmate's role in the killing.

California also has the worst record in the nation for racial disparity in the imposition of life without parole for juveniles. African American youth are serving the sentence at a rate that is eighteen times higher than the rate for white youth, and the rate for Hispanic youth is five times higher.

Of the 262 JLWOP offenders incarcerated in California, there are approximately 2 times as many African American JLWOP offenders as white JLWOP offenders. There are approximately 3 times as many as Mexican or Hispanic JLWOP offenders as white offenders. Also, the Illinois Coalition for the Fair Sentencing of Youth claims that Illinois has the worst racial disparities in the nation at approximately 80% minorities, also a disproven claim. Advocates against JLWOP have repeatedly made false claims in defense of their position.

Each new youth offender given this sentence will cost the state upwards of \$2.5 million. To continue incarcerating the current population of youth offenders already sentenced to life without parole until their deaths in prison will cost the state close to \$700 million.

SB9 Constitutional Violations

Pursuant to the California Constitution, in order to preserve and protect a victim's right to justice and due process, a victim is entitled to the following rights under **Marsy's Law**:

9. To a speedy trial and a prompt and final conclusion of the case and any related post-judgment proceedings. (Cal.Const. Art. I § 28 (b(9))).

SB9 violates the California Constitution by taking a final conclusion of a case and reopening it. As a victims' family has actual rights under the constitution, a bill that changes and diminishes these rights is an ex post facto type of change, which would be a due process violation under both state and federal law.

15. To be informed of all parole procedures, to participate in the parole process, to provide information to the parole authority to be considered before the parole of the offender, and to be notified, upon request, of the parole or other release of the offender. (Cal.Const. Art. I § 28 (b(15))).

SB9 provides for a petition by the inmate and a response by the prosecution. There is no provision for informing the victim's family nor for any participation by the victim's family in the process. Instead, without input from the victim's side, a court reviews bare papers and makes "determinations of fact" from an incomplete set of facts. This violates Art. 1, § 28 (b(15)).

16. To have the safety of the victim, the victim's family, and the general public considered before any parole or other post-judgment release decision is made. (Cal.Const. Art. I § 28 (b(16))).

The decision is a part of the parole process/post-judgment release process. Safety of the victim's family is not a factor in the initial decision whether to hold a hearing. This is yet another constitutional violation under SB9.

The Real Costs Of SB 9

Prepared by:
Prominent practicing California Defense Attorney
Daniel Horowitz

Case Preparation and Attorney Representation

Appointed counsel for each of the defendants at approximately \$ 100 per hour. A single petition and hearing will take approximately 150 hours to prepare and argue **\$ 15,000**

Investigators to Prepare Case

Approximately 50 hours to interview percipient witnesses, prison staff, prison counselors.
Court appointed rate approx. \$ 60/hr **\$ 3,000**
Prosecution preparation costs - Same as above **\$ 18,000**
Total Attorney / Investigator Costs..... **\$ 36,000**
Appointment of psychiatrists/neuropsychologists and
other mental health professionals by defense and prosecution
Cost to prepare and testify **\$ 15,000 each side** **\$ 30,000**
Transport to and from Prison Estimated **\$ 1,000+**
Court time (3 day hearing) Estimated **\$ 15,000**

Appeal

Cost of appellate attorneys approximately **\$ 15,000** each side
Appellate court time including staff, preparation, three judge panel, opinion **\$ 15,000**

Total costs **\$ 127,000 per petition**
Three petitions cost **\$ 381,000**

Costs Upon Release

Parole Supervision **\$ 20,000/year**
New Crime Victims: It is undisputed that more than 50% of the people released on parole reoffend.

Reported "Savings" **\$ 15-20,000 per year**

There are fixed costs that do not change regardless of whether we release **100** or **1000** prisoners. Building maintenance, heating, cooling, e.g. all the fixed costs. The actual cost of adding prisoners in the relatively small numbers we are dealing with are probably **10-20%** of the numbers they use.

Any claim of a per capita savings based upon the total number of prisoners divided by the total cost of the penal system is a deliberately false statistic.

The real cost of adding or subtracting the few hundred people involved is probably about **\$ 15,000-\$ 20,000 per year.**

This is offset by the costs of parole supervision.

Other Costs

Most of the released individuals lack meaningful job skills. They will live off family earnings and/or welfare or other forms of public assistance. This public draw will reduce any savings from their release.

The cost for police services, victims' loss of income, insurance costs, and other costs when some reoffend will far outweigh any so-called savings.

Conclusion

The cost per individual simply for the court process..... **\$ 127,000--\$ 381,000 per person**

The costs saved upon release are outweighed by the supervision costs and the costs of public services which will be provided to the majority of these inmates. Any long term savings will be far outweighed by the costs of recidivism.

CALIFORNIA JUVENILE LWOP OFFENDERS

Organized by County

(Full case details in next Section)

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Carl Leopold: 1 murder, 1 attempted murder

Leopold shot victims execution style. Attempted murder victim survived being shot in head and back

Deonte Donald: 3 murders; 1 attempted murder (wounded)

Donald shot and killed 1 victim himself. The other multiple murders occurred during a bloody 10-week crime spree in Oakland that included 5 slayings and scores of robberies by 6 gang members who called themselves the Nut Cases. The gang members admitted they were motivated largely by the thrill of killing, and roamed the city looking for victims and joked that they were single-handedly driving up the murder tally in Oakland.

Anthony Milton: 1 murder of 16 year old girl

Damon Shields and Clemeth Castille: 1 murder, shot grocery clerk to death

Shields was the direct murderer. Castille convicted of felony murder: he was active participant in robbery and he fired his weapon.

Francisco Monteros: 1 murder, attempted murder

The attempted murder victim sustained minor gunshot wound.

BUTTE COUNTY

Freddy Siordia: 1 murder of 18 year old homecoming king, 1 attempted murder

Siordia stabbed both victims.

COLUSA COUNTY

Nathan Ramazzini, 1 murder of sixteen year old male

Nathan Ramazzini and Leo Contreras brutally murdered their friend, Erik Ingebretsen, 16, with a baseball bat and a butcher knife. Ramazzini was believed to be the driving force behind the killing and a sociopathic. The prosecutor felt they caught a serial murderer on his first murder. An aluminum baseball bat and a butcher's knife was used to kill the victim. Illuminating remarks were made by the trial court and the appellate court regarding the offender. Judge Abel said the life term was warranted under law because the "crime was so serious and the circumstances were as heinous as imaginable." The appellate court backed Abel's decision, saying there was no evidence that Ramazzini was immature for his age or that he did not fully appreciate the nature of his actions in killing "an innocent boy." "The record reflects no self-defense nuances or indications of uneasiness or panic on the part of Ramazzini ...," the decision said. "One of the most frightening aspects of this murder was that Ramazzini apparently had little or no motive to kill his best friend. ... We must conclude that a person of any age who would participate in the brutal and violent slaying of his best friend for no apparent reason presents a danger to society."

Ramazzini was 16 and Contreras was 18. After a jury convicted Ramazzini, he was sentenced to LWOP. Contreras pled guilty and sentenced to 25 years to life. The district attorney said he is convinced it was the juvenile Ramazzini, not the 18-year-old Contreras, who was the leader in the brutal attack

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Scott Dyleski: 1 murder

Dyleski committed a particularly brutal and mutilating murder of female neighbor Pamela Vitale, wife of noted defense attorney Daniel Horowitz.

Andrew Moffett: 1 felony murder of Police Officer Larry Lasater

Moffett helped murder Pittsburg Police Officer Lasater during an on-foot pursuit after he and co-defendant robbed bank and grocery store. He supplied shooter with weapon and hollow point bullets, held gun to temple of clerk, ran with money while co-defendant hid in foliage to ambush officer, and threatened to shoot bystander. Moffett threatened witness during trial. He arranged to have car stolen to use in robbery..

Moffett is scheduled for re-sentencing on July 8, 2011 after appellate ruling. Court will have discretion to re sentence to LWOP or 25 years to life.

FRESNO COUNTY

Hugo Cernas: 1 murder, 2 attempted murders

Cernas shot and seriously wounded his victims

Luis Bautista: 1 murder of kidnapping and robbery victim

KERN COUNTY

Edgar Zavala: 2 murders

Zavala was convicted of one first degree murder and one second degree murder.

Edward Cook: 1 murder during robbery

Julian Garza: 1 murder committed to earn “stripes” in gang

David Herring: 1 murder, 1 attempted murder

Herring murdered a 61 year old man shot while walking home from citizenship class. He turned down plea offer of 15 years to life

Raymond Jimenez and Andrew Nevarez: 2 murders

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Kimorn Nuth, 5 murders, 2 attempted murders, 1 conspiracy to commit murders

Nuth participated in an Asian Boyz street gang murder rampage.

Alfonso Aranda: 1 murder and 1 attempted murder

Diego Avendano: 2 murders, 1 attempted murder

Andre Copeland: 2 murders, 6 attempted murders, five assaults with firearm

Copeland was called “Long Beach Public Enemy #1”.

Steven Cuellar: 1 murder of market clerk with shot gun

Inmate Ralph Steven Flores: 1 murder in '99 at age 17; 1 in '03; 2 in '04

Flores received death penalty for 3 later murders and JLWOP for first murder committed when he was seventeen.

Evan Joel Alfred: 2 murders

George Gallegos: 1 murder in drive-by gang retaliation shooting

Lawrence Cottle: 1 murder of 52 year old business man in fast food restaurant parking lot

Isaac Martinez and Juan Solis: 2 murders both shot each victim

Johnney Izaquirre: 1 murder

Izaquirre fatally shot his victim in a drive by. He was convicted of 3 attempted murders for shooting and wounding two other victims and firing but missing a fourth victim. The four young victims were random victims shot as they were leaving their prom.

Tyrone Douglas 1 murder

Aggravated participation in this felony murder during robbery at video store. Douglas had provided fellow gang member Tony Sandman the gun used in the murder, he planned the robbery, he demanded the victim give them money, and he was the lookout when Sandman shot the victim. Douglas aka “Iceman” had been a gang member of the EC Crips since the age of twelve, and his parents were also gang members. He was on probation when he participated in the robbery and murder of Jose Puente at World Video.

William Hodgson: 1 murder

Felony murder conviction-lookout case. Hodgson held the electric gate open for his accomplice acting as a lookout and provided an escape route for his accomplice. The 20-year-old female victim had pulled into her apartment’s gated garage when she was attacked by co-defendant who shot twice through car window during robbery. Hodgson was present when Salazar fired the first shot at close range through the driver's side window and into Ms. Nam's neck. The appellate court found that Hodgson had to know the victim was severely injured by, and likely lost consciousness after, the first shot. Her car rolled into the garage and struck a pillar and a parked car. Hodgson assisted Salazar in the robbery/murder by holding the garage gate open so Salazar could escape from the garage with the loot. After the first shot, Salazar ran after the car into the garage and fired a second shot into Ms. Nam's head. He then took her wallet and purse. . At the very moment of the second shot a witness looked out his window and saw appellant already straddling and holding the gate open with both hands. Hodgson also assisted in the crimes by yelling out to Salazar at the point the gate was about to close. Salazar heeded appellant's warning and barely managed to squeeze out of the closing gate.

Travon Robinson: 1 murder, 4 attempted murder counts in shooting rampage

Fernando Lopez: 2 murders

Aaron Robinson: 2 murders

Felony murders in which he was driver in drive by shootings. The judge noted that he believed Robinson was “the instigator of this very tragic *retaliation* shooting” and was “deserving of the sentence.” Co-defendants who were older also received 2 LWOP consecutive sentences, the same as Robinson.

Ronald Kupsch: 1 murder

Kupsch, his mom and 2 others were his co-defendants. They were convicted of beating his mom's roommate and then setting his car on fire, killing him, His mother Valerie Martin was sentenced to death for the robbery, kidnapping and murder of her boyfriend, William Whiteside. The other adult co-defendant Christopher Kennedy also received life sentence without the possibility of parole. A fourth defendant, Brad Zoda, fourteen years-old at the time of the crime received a lesser sentence because he was fourteen at the time and he testified against co-defendants. Evidence at trial established Kupsch beat victim with stick and he lit the car on fire. This was also a hate crime as Kupsch was a white supremacist and, after the killing, tattooed himself with a symbol indicating that he had killed an African American.

Leif Taylor: 1 murder

Taylor has had 3 trials to date. The first trial was reversed, second hung, at the third trial Taylor was sentenced again to JLWOP. Taylor's first verdict was in 1994 and he would be one of first allowed to petition under SB9. His last trial was in 2006 and the U.S.S.C recently denied certiorari in 2010. Although each co-defendant blamed the other for the murder of William Shadden, the trial judge in the 2006 trial stated she felt that the evidence showed beyond reasonable doubt that Taylor was actual shooter.

Saul Rivera: 2 murders

Rivera shot and killed 2 teenage brothers and was sentenced to 2 consecutive LWOP sentences. His accomplices, Jesse Martinez and Richardo Martinez were sentenced to 100 years to life and 50 years to life, respectively.

Christopher Jay Murray: 2 murders, shot at twin brother of 1 murder victim, convicted of attempted murder of that victim

CO-defendants Villanueva and Vasquez were convicted as "aiders and abettors" in the April 3, 2006, slayings of Christopher Trevizo, 15, and Demetries Flores, 17, and the attempted murder of Flores' brother. Murray, Vasquez and Villanueva were all carrying guns as they spotted the Trevizo trio and followed them into the wash area. Murray shot and killed Trevizo and Flores and shot at but missed Flores' brother, while Villanueva and Vasquez pointed guns at the Flores brothers but fired no shots.

Dusty Tyrone Castillo: 1 murder

Judge Charles L. Peven said Castillo "would scare the hell out of everybody" and seemed to derive excitement and pleasure by inflicting fear and pain in others. Because of Castillo's violent nature, Peven said he would recommend sending Castillo to a maximum-security prison, such as San Quentin or Pelican Bay.

Leon Durell Hobley: 2 murders

Marcos Salcido: 2 murders

Saclido killed a teenager and then his father when his dad came to his aid.

David Adkins: 3 murders, all teenage girls

Adkins shot 2 victims personally and was convicted of felony murder of third victim. His co-defendant was sentenced to 51 years to life. Co-defendant Vincent Hebrock was a year older than David Adkins but was not as mentally competent as Adkins.

James Amadeo: 1 murder

Amadeo was convicted of beating a probation officer to death with a table leg in order to escape from a juvenile detention center.

Ritch Bryant: 1 murder, hate crime

Bryant, an avowed white supremacist, beat a black homeless man to death to earn lightning bolt tattoos in November 1995. In December 1995, he was one of five or six juveniles who beat and stabbed a black student. He was sentenced to eight years in prison for the later crime which Judge Ito said he must complete before beginning his current life sentence for the November murder and hate crime.

There were two beatings of the murder victim. Co-defendant Randall Rojas, then 20 first beat the victim with a board while Bryant, then 16 egged him on with racial slurs. They left but an hour later Ritch Bryant and Jessica Colwell, both 16, returned and Bryant beat the victim again with a board and pipe. Colwell was convicted of the lesser crime of race-related involuntary manslaughter was sentenced to the maximum term of nine years in prison. Rojas and Bryant each were sentenced to LWOP.

Joe Patrick Gaines: 1 murder

Gaines shot 73 year old family friend execution style during robbery.

Louis Andres Gomez: 1 felony murder, then killed inmate while serving his LWOP sentence

Two years after Louis Gomez was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for the murder he committed on November 11, 1994, he killed again. His next victim was another inmate at Calipatria State Prison, 41-year-old Abe Mendibles who he stabbed to death in a prison classroom on April 13, 1998. His LWOP sentence was for his role in felony murder robbery. He received a second consecutive LWOP sentence for the prison murder in which he stabbed the victim 14 times.

Francisco Perez: 1 murder

Perez shot an honor student while attempting to rob him as he ate lunch at McDonald's. The victim had just picked up cap and gown for graduation.

Oscar Mora: 3 murders, 1 attempted murder

Mora fatally shot 3 victims and shot and wounded fourth victim. He has subsequently been given a consecutive 25 to life term when convicted of being a prisoner in possession of two knives while he was serving his LWOP case.

Cindy Brown and Kenny Santana Johnson: 1 murder during home invasion robbery

Johnson was trying to strangle the victim with a rope when Cindy Brown fatally cut the victim's throat with a knife. Johnson was convicted of felony murder for his participation in the home invasion and for using the rope to try to strangle the victim.

Amy Lynn Preasmyer, 1 murder

Aggravated felony murder circumstances. Preasmyer she set up the murder for hire of her fiancé and participated by hiring a hit man, providing him with gloves, potatoes to act as silencer for weapon, a layout of apartment, Preasmyer provided the hit man with transportation and access to the apartment she and victim shared. She arranged for victim to be there at set time, and set up alibi for herself by being with victim's sister at time of killing.

Boupha Bounpraseuth: 2 murder victims, 1 attempted murder

Bounpraseuth shot the 3 victims (2 female and 1 male) in front of the victims' three small children after one of the females accidentally backed into a neighbor's car. The trial judge recommended to prison authorities that he always be incarcerated in maximum security units as the Court found him be so dangerous that the Court felt he would be dangerous to other inmates if allowed to be housed in the general population units.

Robert Ramirez and Larry Hernandez: 1 murder of police officer

Ramierz and Hernandez both shot Glendora Police Officer Louis Pompei multiple times when the off-duty officer intervened in a grocery store robbery where the defendants were pistol whipping a mentally challenged employee.

Bobby White and Derrick Wilson: 1 murder and 1 attempted murder

White shot bank teller, but Wilson had pistol whipped her and held gun to her neck before White shot her. Wilson was convicted of murder under felony murder doctrine. Although the trial judge originally sentenced the fourth defendant, Jamon Carr, to life without possibility of parole, he vacated the sentence and modified it to life with possibility of parole because he found this minor was less culpable and was not personally armed. The fourth co-defendant who was an adult was also sentenced to life without possibility of parole for his participation in the felony murder.

Gary Baze: 1 murder

Baze shot victim four times after kidnapping him during carjacking. The victim was found clutching his rosary.

Raymond Salvador Ramirez: 1 murder under felony murder doctrine

Ramirez was lookout at the door of the business being robbed. He assaulted another victim with deadly weapon so accomplices could make getaway after robbery

Dennis Barroso: 1 murder

Barroso shot his victim during a robbery.

Edwin Cruz and Osvaldo Ramos: 2 murders by Cruz, 1 by Ramos

Cruz was fatal shooter in 1 incident. Ramos lured victim to scene for robbery where Cruz shot him and Ramos was found guilty of felony murder for his role. In separate incident, Cruz was active participant in felony murder, but not actual shooter. Cruz and other gang members had picked up fellow gang member with plans to kill him. Cruz got his friend out of car and into alley where another gang member killed him.

Valentino Arenas: 1 murder

Arenas killed CHP Sergeant Thomas Steiner to impress gang and move up in gang ranks. Sgt. Steiner was ambushed leaving traffic court in Pomona; he was shot simply because he was uniformed officer.

David Galvez: 2 murders

Augustine Zamora: 1 murder

Zamora's robbery victim remained in a coma for a month before succumbing to his injuries. Zamora later committed another robbery and struck victim with handgun.

Anthony Hernandez: 1 felony murder

Hernandez and Torres both beat the victim by punching him repeatedly in the head. After Hernandez had the victim in a chokehold, co-defendant Torres then strangled him with a bed sheet.

Gonzalo Marquez Marquez: 2 murders, one felony murder accomplice

On September 24, 1984 Marquez was convicted of the 1981 first degree murder of Ascencion Hernandez and 1979 second degree murder of Angel Rodriquez with the special circumstances finding of multiple murders committed in the course of a robbery and burglary. Although this was initially a capital case, Marquez is now serving a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. According to records of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Marquez, who is in his mid forties, is the oldest JLWOP inmate incarcerated in California.

Marquez admitted that he fatally shot Angel Rodriquez in the head as Rodriquez was fighting Marquez' cousin in December of 1979.

On March 15, 1981, Marquez was with Miquel Reyes and Jaime Pulido when the three robbed Ascencion Hernandez during a home invasion robbery. Marquez was convicted of the Hernandez murder under the felony murder rule as he did not personally use the firearm used to kill Hernandez. He stood at the door as the lookout for his two co-defendants.

Eli Arana: convicted of 2 murders and 5 attempted murders under felony murder doctrine

Arana instigated drive by shooting against rival gangs in which innocent woman and 3 year old daughter was killed when stray bullet went through window of their home. He was also driver of car used in drive by shooting.

Dukwan Adderley: 1 murder committed with accomplice

The appellate court found sufficient evidence that Adderley was the actual shooter of cabdriver, but if not, evidence showed Adderley pointed the gun at the driver's head when accomplice Manard demanded the driver's money without any direction from Manard and in furtherance of the effort to commit the robbery.

Richard Hodge: 1 murder

Hodge murdered female crossing guard.

Reginald Howard: 1 murder of grocery store security guard

MONTEREY COUNTY

Norman Willover: 2 murders and 1 attempted murder

Willover fatally shot one of the murder victims and wounded the attempted murder victim in an attempted robbery. He then participated in another drive by that evening shooting in which a fellow gang member fatally shot another woman. His then nineteen-year-old co-defendant in the second drive by received the death penalty for fatally shooting a mother of six.

ORANGE COUNTY

Gerardo Lopez: 1 murder

Lopez shot the victim during a kidnapping and murder for financial gain. The other co-defendants were adults: The victim's 36-year-old sister received LWOP penalty for hiring gang members to kidnap and kill her brother. Fellow gang member Alberto Martinez, who was the 24-year-old getaway driver, was sentenced to death. Anthony Navarro, then 36, who hired the Pacoima gang members for Perna, was sentenced to death. Another gang member who also shot the victim was convicted in April of 2011 of special circumstances murder, and the death penalty is now being sought in Macias' penalty phase. Both Macias and Lopez shot the victim.

Thomas (Tommy) Miller: 1 murder, Miller's victim was 14.

Nhut Thanh Vo: 2 murders, 1 attempted murder

Vo's shot his victim and seriously wounded another when Vo and his fellow Power of Vietnam gang members crashed a graduation party the victims were attending.

Brian Mote: 1 murder

Mote killed his girlfriend's 62-year-old grandma by stabbing her 36 times. His girlfriend was convicted of second degree murder and received 15 years to life for her role.

Hilario Torres: 1 murder

Torres was also convicted of gang enhancement and personal use of a firearm, second degree robbery of a second victim, Maria Ibarra, 2 counts of attempted robbery, and street terrorism.

Edel Gonzales: 1 murder

Gonzales was convicted under felony murder when his gang killed woman for her car. Enrique M. Segoviano, 18, was actual shooter. The jury found that Edel Gonzalez displayed reckless indifference to human life by participating in a gang-related incident which included a car theft at gunpoint.

Oscar David Andrade: 1 murder

Andrade was the actual shooter. His three co-defendants received 25 to life.

José Luis Suárez: 1 murder

Suarez's victim had been standing by an ice cream truck when Suárez started shooting. The victim tried to run but was shot 5 times.

Rafael Servin: 1 murder

Servin murdered to benefit his gang and to increase his status in the gang and the gang in the community, as victim did not show Servin proper respect.

Julio Ponce: 1 murder

Ponce confronted young male and asked his what gang he belonged to. When the victim said he did not belong to a gang, Ponce shot him in the back.

Juan Roldan and Oiram Ayala: 2 murder, 1 attempted murder

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Jason Scott Harper: 1 murder in felony murder

Harper provided handcuffs to killer to restrain victim, a merchant whom he knew, and showed killer where knife was located in store so that killer could stab victim.

Jerrett Lewis: 1 murder

Lewis fatally beat and robbed a 66 year old security guard. Lewis and fellow Gateway Posse Crips sneaked up on the security guard's van. Lewis and co-defendant Thomas hurled rocks at the van, shattering the windows, before they pulled the guard from the vehicle and beat him to death for wallet and cell phone.

Jesus Albert Castillo: 1 murder, 1 attempted murder

Mario Ivan Soto: 1 murder of 22 year old rival gang member

Soto murdered the victim during an ongoing violent war between the 2 rival gangs as well as to further the criminal activities of Westside Rivas.

Natalie DeMola and Terry Bell: 1 murder

DeMola was a very active felony murder participant in her mom's death.

Dayana Cordova: 1 murder in aggravated felony murder

Michael Mercado and Ryan Thomas Bangs: 1 murder, felony murder for Bangs

Ana Guinn: 1 murder, Guinn beat victim to death with baseball bat.

Jason Johnston: 1 murder

Johnston carjacked and then ran over elderly victim 3 times. He later brought friends to the crime scene to show them the body like it was a trophy, and danced around the body, singing in glee “You’re a stiff “and as a final indignity, urinated on the corpse. He then burned the body.

Fabian Flores: 1 murder

Flores entered the home of the elderly victim who was in her early 80’s and proceeded to stab her more than 100 times.

Ashley Gallegos: 1 felony murder

The victim sixteen year old Mark Walker was fatally shot during a robbery, kidnapping and carjacking in which Ashley Gallegos participated. Jose Montes, age 22, was the actual shooter and he received the death penalty. Gaellgos was a passenger in the victim’s car being driven by Montes, and he admitted he knew that the victim was in the trunk. Gallegos admitted that he knew the victim was in the trunk The group of young men drove a long distance to attend a party, leaving the victim in the trunk of the car. Montes shot the victim several times .

Mariano Valdez: 1 murder, hate crime against African American victim

Christian Bracamontes: 1 felony murder

Bracamontes and his co-defendant Jose Morales went to a wash basin to “tag”, along with the co-defendant’s younger brother. Before leaving, Bracamontes asked his co-defendant did he have his handgun with him, and encouraged Morales to bring the gun. Another group of four young males were at the wash basin to smoke marijuana. Bracamontes took the handgun from Morales’ backpack and stuck it in his sweatshirt. Bracamontes asked the victim if he had painted over his tag and the victim replied no. The victim then asked Bracamontes and his friends if they wanted to buy marijuana. They declined as they had no money.

The Bracamontes trio then discussed robbing the victim and his friends. Morales’ younger brother refused to take part in the robbery and left Bracamontes and Morales at the basin, calling them stupid. Bracamontes handed the gun to Morales who shot Thomas Williams during the robbery.

Edwin Cuellar: 1 murder

Cuellar, Joey Alfredo Diaz, and Johnny Ray Aguirre were convicted of murder in the May 11, 2005, in the stabbing death of 15-year-old Dominic Redd. Two separate juries called the Red jury and the Blue jury were used to try the three defendants with Cuellar having a separate trial. At the time of the murder Diaz was 15 and Aguirre and Cuellar were 16.

Diaz testified about the racial slurs and curse words they had yelled as they chased the Centennial varsity running back. According to testimony, Dominic dropped his backpack and ran. He tried desperately to open the door to his home, but the defendants caught up with him, and he managed to get away. They eventually surrounded Dominic. Diaz originally told police that he had stabbed Dominic once, but at trial he said Cuellar did it.

Cuellar told police that Diaz did it because the youngest one has to carry the weapon. Co-defendant Aguirre said Diaz couldn't do it.

The cross finger-pointing led to Diaz and Aguirre having a different jury than Cuellar. Although the prosecutor argued that all three should be found guilty of first-degree murder no matter who had stabbed Dominic, jurors reached different verdicts. The red jury convicted Diaz of second-degree murder as well as the special circumstances of the gang enhancement, but found that he did not use a deadly weapon. The same jury convicted Aguirre of second-degree murder in furtherance of a gang.

The Blue jury found Cuellar guilty of first-degree murder in furtherance of a gang.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Maksim Isayev: 1 murder, Isayev shot his victim at a park.

Doshmen Johnson: 1 murder

Darious Mays: 1 murder

Daniel Russell and Calvin Pearson: 1 murder

Russell and Pearson both beat blind 90 year old great-grandmother to death with her cane and their fists, chilling video of a remorseless discussion by the two afterwards.

Robert Crisler: 1 murder

Dwayne DeLuna: 1 murder

Frank Osorio: 1 murder, Osorio killed his mom to steal her money.

Jiles Wallace: 1 felony murder

Wallace appeared to be considered less culpable than others by DA and offered deal for lesser sentence but turned it down.

Edward Sanchez: 1 murder 2 attempted murders

Inmate Ellis Curtis: 1 murder

Robert Drayton: 1 murder, Drayton stoned and drowned a teenage girl.

Issach Ready: 2 murders

Raymond Muhammad Ward: 1 murder

Ward committed a cruel carjacking at intersection for car rims.

Deondre Terrell Hudson: 1 murder

Hudson murdered girlfriend who was 8 months pregnant and fetus so he wouldn't have to pay child support when he became rapper.

Reginald Bunn and Antonio Minor: 1 murder
Both Bunn and Minor shot the victim.

Daniel Perez: 1 murder

Miguel Soto Enriquez: 1 murder and 1 attempted murder

Daniel Zhuk: 1 murder and 1 attempted murder
Zhuk was charged with felony murder but the court said he was the dominant defendant and had others doing his bidding. He was engaged in Russian gang activity.

Johnny Mack Cotton: 1 murder

Thomas Hernandez: 1 murder, 4 attempted murders, including 2 seriously wounded

Jimmy Siackasorn: 1 murder
Siackasorn shot and killed Deputy Sheriff Vu Nguyen.

SAN BERNADINO COUNTY

Jamal Rhone: 1 murder, Rhone shot and killed an 89 year old man.

Tyson Atlas: 1 murder

Christopher Turelle White: 2 murders caught on tape

Roman Barnes: 1 murder
Barnes beat 85 year old neighbor to death with brick, then set her house on fire and burned her.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Penifoti Taeotui and Meki Gaono: 1 murder, assault with deadly weapon of other officer and civilian ride along
Both Taeotui and Gaono shot at Oceanside Officer Dan Bessant. Gaono was the fatal shooter.

Desmond Payton: 3 murders, Payton shot all 3 of his victims.

Khary Watson: 1 murder, Watson was caught 15 years after he murdered.

Doen Naeem Haygood: 1 murder
Haygood was sentenced again to LWOP after successful appeal.

Jarred Viktor: 1 murder

Viktor stabbed his step-grandmother, Betty Carroll, 61 times.

Robert Lamar Myers and Edward Thomas: 2 murders, 3 attempted murders.

Myers was the shooter and Thomas the driver in 3 drive-by shootings in 22 hour period.

Henry Lee Dreyer and Scott Whitlow: 2 murders

Dreyer beat with baseball bat and slit throat of his adoptive mother and her boyfriend.
Whitlow beat the male with a baseball bat.

Kristopher Kirchner: 1 murder

Kirchner brutally beat Mr. Elvey, age 58, with a metal pipe. The victim sustained 25 skull fractures and died after being in a coma for 41 days. Co-defendant, Damion Miller spent 9 years in Ca Youth Authority because of age difference.

Since being incarcerated for life without possibility of parole for the murder of Mr. Elvey, Kirchner has been convicted of attempted murder of another inmate arising out of circumstances where he stabbed another inmate.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Rattanak Kak: 2 murders, 3 attempted murders, Kak shot and wounded other victims.

Jimmy Benson and David Lewis: 1 murder, 3 attempted murders

Lewis fired kill shot, Benson fired in air.

Jose Rodriguez Cardenas: 1 murder

Egnacio Joshua: 2 murders

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Savin Sam: 3 murders, 3 attempted murder, Sam shot all his victims.

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Raul Campos: 4 murders

Campos bound and shot his victims execution style in the head. He personally killed 3.

SONOMA COUNTY

Salvador Jimenez Jr.: 1 murder

TULARE COUNTY

Angel Carroasco: 1 murder

David Garcia: 1 murder, 3 attempted murders

LaVang See: 1 murder in aggravated felony murder
See and fellow gang member Chawa See shot victim.

Andres Contreras: 1 murder, 2 attempted murders
Contreras shot his victims in 2 separate incidents.

VENTURA COUNTY

Edward Anthony Throop: 2 murders, 2 attempted murders, Throop shot both victims.

Nathan Sessing: 1 murder
Sessing stabbed a 61 year old victim and was arrested while in jail for stabbing someone else.

Rudolfo Sandoval: 1 murder

Adam Sarabia: 2 murders

Michael Naranjo: 4 murders, 1 attempted murder
Naranjo victims were 17, 11 and 13 year old youths and their father. He seriously wounded the mother Sylvia Flores. Sylvia was the adoptive mother/biological aunt of his girlfriend. His girlfriend was a co-defendant who got her LWOP overturned and then sentenced to 4 consecutive 25 years to life terms.

Samuel Puebla: 1 murder

CASE SUMMARIES

CALIFORNIA JUVENILE JLWOP OFFENDERS ORGANIZED BY COUNTY

ALAMEDA COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Francisco Monteros

Defendant Francisco Monteros was convicted of first degree murder and attempted murder. The jury further found true the special circumstances allegation that defendant intentionally killed Mario Ulloa on November 14, 2001 while defendant was an active participant in a criminal street gang and that the murder was carried out to further the activities of the criminal street gang. With respect to the attempted murder count, the jury found that defendant had personally used a firearm and had intentionally and personally discharged a firearm in the attempted murder of Linda Rodriguez.

As to the first degree murder count, on September 7, 2005 the trial court sentenced defendant to life in prison without the possibility of parole, plus an additional consecutive term of 25 years to life for personal discharge of a firearm causing great bodily injury. Monteros received a total sentence of life without the possibility of parole, plus 52 years for enhancements and the attempted murder.

The victim, Mario Ulloa was affiliated with a branch of the Surenos gang. Defendant was affiliated with a gang known as DGF, which is a branch of the rival Nortenos gang. In the fall of 2001, Mario and his girlfriend, Linda Rodriguez, lived with his family in a part of Hayward, which was considered to be the heart of DGF territory.

On November 14, 2001, at approximately 7:40 p.m., Mario and Linda were returning home by bicycle. Mario was pedaling the bicycle and Linda was sitting on the cross-bar. As Mario turned onto Pensacola Way, he told Linda that he hoped there were no Nortenos out on the street. Immediately, Linda saw a group of five or six men standing in front of a house.

Francisco Monteros emerged from the group of men and ran in front of Mario's bicycle, and confronted the victims. As Mario began pedaling faster, defendant started chasing Mario and Linda. Three seconds later, Linda heard three gunshots. Mario screamed, and both he and Linda fell off the bicycle. Linda got up and started running toward Mario's house. She heard Mario say, it's cool, it's cool, it's cool. Approximately 15 seconds after she heard the first three shots, Linda heard six more shots. As Linda was running, a bullet dropped from her pants. While she was still running, Linda touched herself and felt blood on the right side of her back. A neighbor who knew Francisco Monteros testified at trial that she saw him shooting a gun at a twitching body on the ground.

Mario's brother also testified he saw Francisco Monteros shoot his brother and then escape in a car.

JLWOP Inmate Carl Leopold

Carl Leopold was sentenced in Alameda County on October 8, 1998 to life without possibility of parole for murdering an alleged drug-dealer and leaving a second man for dead in the December 1, 1996 double shooting at an industrial park in Fremont. Two other men involved

in the shooting, Edgar Detrinidad, 20, of Tracy and James Velez, 22, of Oakland were taken into custody several days after the shooting.

Leopold was the gunman who killed Roberto Aracia, 25, of Newark execution-style and shot and wounded a 25-year-old Fremont man. Fremont police Captain Mike Lanam said the three men planned the shooting days in advance to “do a drug rip-off.” Detrinidad had bought drugs from Aracia in the past, and Velez allegedly acted as the lookout, police said. Both Aracia and his companion were ordered to lie face down on the pavement before Leopold shot them, Lanam said. The second man was shot in the back and head.

JLWOP Inmate Deonte Donald

Jurors found 22-year-old Deonte Donald guilty of the special circumstance of multiple murders and of a number of robbery and burglary charges committed when Donald was seventeen and a member of a notorious Oakland gang who had terrorized the city. On June 6, 2006, he was sentenced to life without possibility of parole plus 79 years.

A bloody 10-week crime spree began in late 2002 and ended in early 2003 that included five slayings and scores of robberies throughout Oakland by six killers who called themselves the Nut Cases. The deaths were committed by men motivated largely by the thrill of killing, roaming the city looking for victims and joking that they were single-handedly driving up the tally, police said. The suspects told police they would spend their time getting high and playing the violent video game “Grand Theft Auto III” — which rewards players for committing crimes — and then would act out what they’d done when they grew bored with the game.

Two days after Christmas in 2002, two members sprayed more than twenty rounds of bullets into a house party, killing two celebrators inside, including a 14-year-old boy. They just went to the residence, knocked on the door and opened fire with an assault rifle. Keith Macki, 14, was shot in the head and became Oakland’s youngest homicide victim of the year. Jerry Duckworth, 24, a family friend who tried to save the boy as a hail of gunfire burst out, died when he was struck six times. A third victim, Michael Vassar, was shot three times but survived. As violent as the Nut Cases were, the night of Jan. 6, 2003, was especially bad, investigators said. It began in Berkeley, where police said the crew robbed three people outside the Ashby BART Station. Minutes later, they robbed and beat another man, then drove to Piedmont, where they pistol-whipped a man walking home from the Grand Lake movie theater. Then they headed to a neighborhood just east of Lake Merritt, where they had committed robberies in the past, police said. Cindy Li testified she was standing on Sixth Avenue near her broken Ford Taurus with the hood popped open when two Nut Cases approached, demanded money and started rifling through her pockets.

The rampage ended with the brutal murder of Sunny Thach. Thach had just helped his wife carry their laundry inside when he remembered one more bag of baby clothes still in the car and went to retrieve it. He was shot dead in his front yard minutes later, begging for his life as his wife and toddler looked on, by robbers who took \$31. Thach’s wife, Sylvia Tang, testified that she was standing in the doorway of their apartment, witnessed the incident and screamed. ‘He shot Sunny in the head, and then he tried to shoot me,’ said Tang, who ducked with their toddler, avoiding the bullets.

JLWOP Inmate Anthony Milton

An Oakland man was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for shooting to death 16-year-old Perla Hilarios in Oakland six years before. Anthony Milton was

convicted on Aug. 10 of first-degree murder, using a gun to kill someone and the special circumstance of committing a murder during the course of a robbery in connection with the death of Hilarios on Dec. 2, 2003.

Milton deliberately shot Hilarios in the face at point-blank range while he and his brother, Juan Milton, were robbing Hilarios' boyfriend. Hilarios tried unsuccessfully to defuse the situation and her last words before she was fatally shot were, "It's O.K. It's cool."

A teenage boy who was with Hilarios and her boyfriend managed to injure the Milton brothers by pulling out a .gun and shooting them, Oakland police said.

JLWOP Inmates Ramon Shields and Clemeth Castille

Shields and Castille , both 17 at the time of the crimes committed on November 11, 1996, conspired with 18-year-old co-defendant Robert Brown to rob an Oakland Market. Shields provided the weapons, two sawed off shotguns, one being a .16 gauge Winchester with a pump action, and the other being a .12 gauge Mossberg. Brown was the driver for the robbery. Both Castille and Shields wore ski masks when they went in the market. Castille demanded money from store clerk Abdo Nashar who struggled with Castille for the gun. Another clerk Nabil Abdulla was checking a display counter and saw the struggle between Castille and Nashar, and witnessed Shields pointing his shotgun into the interior of the market. As Abdulla was trying to hide behind a refrigerator, he heard two shots being fired. The forensic evidence indicated that Nashar was killed with the weapon that Shields was using, and shotgun pellets from Castille's firearm were found near the cash register.

Both Shields and Castille were sentenced to life without possibility of parole on November 18, 1999. Their appellate cases reached the level of the United States Supreme Court on the issue of whether a tape recording of the police interview in which the defendants were interviewed jointly should have been introduced at trial when adoptive admissions were elicited. The USSC remanded the case back to the lower state court to determine if the adoptive admissions in the interview constituted error in light of the ruling in the recent USSC Crawford case. The state court found that there was no Crawford error and affirmed the judgment against the defendants.

BUTTE COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Freddy Siordia

On February 22, 2007 Freddy Siordia was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole after being found guilty of first degree murder and killing to benefit a criminal street gang in the fatal stabbing of eighteen-year-old Oroville High Homecoming King Bryan David Semore. The stabbing occurred in the early morning hours of Oct. 2, 2005 when Semore and two friends stopped at a Chico gas station to buy sodas and snacks.

Semore and his friends were confronted by a group of five Chico Norteno gang members. The two groups glared at each other which in gang vernacular is referred to as being "mad-dogged", and is considered an invitation to fight. The hostile stares escalated into "bumping chests" and eventually ended up in a free for all fight. During the mutual fist fight, Freddy Siordia yelled "Norte" three times according to witnesses before he stabbed William Caffey in the chest and face with a knife. Siordia then stabbed the victim Bryan Semore more than five times from behind, inflicting a fatal wound to his heart.

COLUSA COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Nathan Ramazzini

Nathan Ramazzini and Leo Contreras brutally murdered their friend, Erik Ingebretsen, 16, on July 15, 1997, leaving his battered and bloodied body near the Sacramento River. Ramazzini, widely believed to be the driving force behind the killing and considered among some circles to be sociopathic, was 16 years old at the time. “I think what was said was, ‘We caught a serial murderer on the first one,’” Colusa County District Attorney John Poyner recalled. Ramazzini was convicted of the murder and is serving life without the possibility of parole.

Ingebretsen had just gotten off work at Holiday market in Colusa on July 15, 1997, when he saw his friends, Ramazzini and Leopoldo J. Contreras Jr., waiting in the parking lot. Ramazzini drove the three out to a secluded spot north of town, claiming he wanted to show them something. When Ingebretsen didn’t return home, a community-wide search ensued complete with county, state and federal investigators. Ingebretsen’s body was discovered July 17, 1997, in a wooded area along the Sacramento River. That night, Ramazzini and Contreras were detained by authorities for questioning in the teen’s death. Ramazzini was convicted April 30, 1998, by a Sacramento County jury of first-degree murder with a special allegation of lying in wait and an enhancement for use of a deadly weapon, an aluminum baseball bat and a butcher’s knife.

Judge Abel said the life term was warranted under law because the “crime was so serious and the circumstances were as heinous as imaginable.” The appellate court backed Abel’s decision, saying there was no evidence that Ramazzini was immature for his age or that he did not fully appreciate the nature of his actions in killing “an innocent boy.” “The record reflects no self-defense nuances or indications of uneasiness or panic on the part of Ramazzini ...,” the decision said. “One of the most frightening aspects of this murder was that Ramazzini apparently had little or no motive to kill his best friend. ... We must conclude that a person of any age who would participate in the brutal and violent slaying of his best friend for no apparent reason presents a danger to society.” Valorie Ingebretsen, who called Ramazzini a “ruthless, cold, evil person” in a statement at his sentencing, said the appellate court’s affirmation of his conviction and prison term is another big step in favor of her son.

“I believe this appeal was selfish, hurtful and indicative of the true nature of Nathan Ramazzini. I would like to re-emphasize that there was only one victim that dreadful night,” she said Tuesday. “Erik was not given an appeal or a second chance. Worse than that, he was denied the basic right of life.”

FRESNO COUNTY

Inmate Hugo Cernas

Hugo Cernas was a member of the Floradora Street Bulldogs gang who murdered one victim and attempted to murder a pregnant woman and another man, None of the three victims were gang members, but innocent people caught up in gang warfare shootings in Fresno between the Bulldogs and Suranos. Hugo Cernas and Ronald Enrique Ybarra were found guilty, of the first degree special circumstances murder and two attempted murders.

On October 5, 2001, someone in a BMW yelled out to Ybarra, “What’s up Sur?” Ybarra yelled back, “Bulldog.” From inside the BMW, someone fired several shots at him from the BMW but missed Ybarra.

Later that evening, Ybarra, Cernas, and another male, all armed with guns, walked toward a house they thought was a Sureño residence. Gilbert Medrano, his pregnant niece Mercedes López, and his friend Álvaro Romero were sitting outside the house talking, when Cernas started shooting. Medrano was shot in the face, López in the leg and stomach, and Romero was shot three times, fatally wounding him.

KERN COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Edgar Zavala

On October 15, 2008 Edgar Zavala was sentenced for killing 26-year-old Stephanie Gutierrez, mother of five and 47-year-old Luis Gonzalez Ramirez on January 12, 2007. Zavala was sentenced to two terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Stephanie was visiting her friend Luis at his house when a dispute arose between the victims and the two younger males, ending with both victims being shot and killed. Neither Gutierrez nor Gonzales was gang members.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Aaron Robinson

A 21-year-old gang member was convicted of murder for his participation in the 2004 shooting deaths of a U.S. Navy sailor and one other. Deputy District Attorney Victor Avila said jurors deliberated for less than a day before convicting Aaron Robinson of two counts of first-degree murder and finding true the special circumstance allegation that the defendant was an active participant in a criminal street gang and the murder was carried out to further the activities of the gang. Jurors additionally found true principal armed and gang allegations. Because the defendant was 16 at the time of the murders, he faced a maximum sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. A second man, John Williams, 28, is awaiting trial on the same charges. Prosecutors contend that Robinson, Williams and another man went into rival gang territory on May 24, 2004 – three days after Robinson was shot by a gang rival and released from the hospital – to carry out a retaliatory shooting. Robinson drove the vehicle containing alleged gunman Williams and another man. Prosecutors contend that Williams and the third suspect carried out a random attack with an AK-47 assault rifle and a 9-mm handgun on victims Brian Butler and Melvin Knowles, both 25. Long-time friends Butler and Knowles were out celebrating Butler’s military leave. Butler sustained 11 gunshot wounds and Knowles was shot nine times. Neither victim had gang ties. Knowles’ wife, who was accompanying the two victims, escaped injury, prosecutors said. An investigation against the third suspect is ongoing.

At sentencing on July 8, 2009 two gang members were ordered to spend the rest of their lives behind bars for the shooting deaths of a Navy sailor, who had recently returned from a tour of duty in the Persian Gulf, and one of his friends. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Robert J. Perry imposed two life terms without the possibility of parole on both Aaron Robinson, 21, and John Williams, 28, and also tacked on an additional 50 years to life. The two were convicted in separate trials of first-degree murder for the slayings of Brian Butler Jr., 25, of Gardena, and Melvin Deonte Knowles, 25, of Lakewood. Jurors found true the special circumstance allegation

that the murders were carried out to further the activities of a criminal street gang. The two victims, who were longtime friends, had no gang affiliations and were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time when they were attacked in the Hyde Park area of South Los Angeles on May 24, 2004, according to Deputy District Attorney Victor Avila. Butler was shot 11 times, while Knowles suffered nine gunshot wounds. Robinson, who was 16 at the time of the crimes, was charged as an adult and sentenced to the maximum term he could face. The judge noted that he believed Robinson was “the instigator of this very tragic retaliation shooting” and was “deserving of the sentence.” In a brief statement just he was sentenced, Williams said he had pressed Robinson “into this.” Outside court, the prosecutor called Williams “manipulative” and said he believed the statement — which Williams had never made during interviews with police — was intended to curry favor with Robinson. Authorities are continuing to investigate who fired the second weapon.

JLWOP Inmate Ronald Kupsch

Ronald Kupsch, teenage son of Valerie Martin, was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for murdering William Whiteside, along with his mother and two other co-defendants, when Kupsch was seventeen-years-old.

His mother Valerie Dee Martin was prosecuted along with the three men in case No. MA026253. She was convicted of the robbery, kidnapping and murder of her boyfriend, William Whiteside who was killed on Feb. 28, 2003, and she was subsequently sentenced to death. Two of her co-defendants were convicted and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, including her teenage son Ronald Kupsch and Christopher Kennedy. A fourth defendant, Brad Zoda, fourteen years-old at the time of the crime, who testified against his fellow co-defendants, was expected to accept a first degree murder juvenile “conviction”.

The four were charged in the slaying of William Whiteside, an Antelope Valley Hospital maintenance worker whose battered body was found March 10, 2003 inside the trunk of his burned car. Coroner’s officials say Whiteside, who lived in the Lido Estates mobile-home park, died from thermal burns, and other injuries, including head injuries. Investigators believe Whiteside was knocked out and put into the trunk of his car, which was then set afire. According to Lido Estates neighbors, Martin and her teenage son had lived with Whiteside in his mobile home for seven or eight months before his death.

Whiteside was the father of grown children and had been separated from his wife for about two years, neighbors said. They said the victim and Martin met through their jobs at the hospital, where Martin worked in housekeeping.

Whiteside was last seen Feb. 27 and was reported missing by his wife two days later, according to coroner’s records. On Feb. 27, his burned car was found on a street. Sheriff’s deputies had it towed to a local tow yard. Investigators arrived to search the car and discovered Whiteside’s burned body in the trunk.

JLWOP Inmate Lief Taylor

After reversal of a 1994 verdict and a hung jury on retrial, Leif Taylor is again convicted of the 1993 fatal shooting of a Long Beach student.

A Long Beach jury on Monday again convicted a man for the 1993 slaying of a graduate student from a prominent local family. Shadden was shot and killed in May 1993, apparently while chasing two men who had attempted to steal his bicycle.

Leif Taylor, 29, had been found guilty in 1994 of killing William Shadden, but his conviction was reversed two years ago by a federal appeals court, which ruled that Long Beach police had coerced a confession.

Taylor, who is scheduled to be sentenced next month, has been in prison for the Shadden killing since he was 16. He faces a maximum prison term of life without parole.

Shadden's mother, Sandi Shadden, shook with emotion as the verdict was read. She and her husband, Thomas, are influential community leaders and philanthropists in Long Beach. Her eyes covered by dark glasses in the courtroom, she squeezed her husband's hand to steady her trembling. (editorial note: victim's mother Sandi died of cancer after this article was written)

Taylor had cried before the jury arrived in the courtroom, but he displayed no emotion as the verdict was announced. He was handcuffed and led out of the courtroom by bailiffs, as lawyers discussed sentencing dates with Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Joan Comparet Cassani.

Outside the courtroom, Sandi Shadden said she was pleased with the verdict, but expressed sympathy for Taylor's mother.

"I lose a son; she loses a son," she said.

At sentencing, Taylor received life without possibility of parole sentence in the 2006 trial.

JLWOP Inmate Saul Rivera

Months before he gunned down two teenage brothers, Canoga Park member Saul Rivera made the first of a series of mistakes that would put him in prison for the rest of his life — he asked a cop to run the serial number on a gun. That misstep and other evidence earned him life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murders of 16-year-old David Zapata and his brother Miguel, 15, outside a Canoga Park restaurant Feb. 2, 2005.

In November of 2006, Rivera, 18, was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and other weapons charges. In a separate trial in October, his accomplices, Jesse Martinez, 18, and Richardo Martinez, were sentenced to 100 years to life and 50 years to life, respectively.

Rivera was tried as an adult but was not eligible for the death penalty because he was a minor at the time of the killings, prosecutors said. On February 8, 2007 Saul Rivera was sentenced to life without possibility of parole.

Months before the shooting, Rivera approached campus officer because he wanted him to check out a serial number on a handgun he wanted to buy but wanted to make sure it wasn't stolen.

"I told him, 'You shouldn't be messing with guns,'" Perez said.

Perez ran the serial number but never told Rivera that the 9mm handgun was clean. The day of the killings, Rivera and the two Martinez boys, who are not related, approached the Zapata brothers outside a Wienerschnitzel. After discovering the brothers claimed Temple Street, another gang, Rivera, then 16, shot the boys with the 9mm gun.

Perez received a call from Detective Rick Swanston after Rivera and his accomplices were arrested. A woman had followed the boys after the killing and led police to where they found the gun.

Swanston knew Perez had information on Rivera and the Canoga Park Alabama gang and told him Rivera was in custody for a double murder. "'Hey,' he said to the detective. 'By any chance was it a 9mm Glock?' And I stated the serial number, and he was just surprised and said, 'How do you know that?'"

For the Martinez family, Rivera's sentencing brings them little solace. "We've got to stop the violence of all these gangs," said Denise Zapata, the boys' mother.

JLWOP Inmate Christopher Jay Murray

Christopher Trevizo, 15, and Demestries Flores, 17, were shot to death on April 3, 2006, while in a flood control channel near Los Altos Drive in Hacienda Heights. The attempted murder victim, Flores' twin brother, survived the shooting.

Nineteen-year-old Christopher Jay Murray Jr., pleaded no contest earlier this year to the murders and attempted murder, but he also claimed to be insane at the time the crimes were committed. The jury that heard Murray's sanity trial last month found him sane. Murray was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole on October 22, 2007.

The motive for the murders was over a quarter of an ounce of marijuana that Murray believed was stolen from him a couple of months before the killings, authorities added.

Two co-defendants, one 18 and the other 19, were convicted of murder today in connection with the fatal shootings of two other teenagers in Hacienda Heights.

Deputy District Attorney Stacy Okun-Wiese said a jury convicted Salvador Jacob Villanueva, 19, of one count of first-degree murder, one count of second-degree murder and one count of attempted murder. Co-defendant Angelo Vasquez, 18, was convicted of two counts of second-degree murder and one of attempted murder. The jury found true the allegations of personal use of a firearm against both defendants, the prosecutor said.

Both faced life sentences when they return to court for sentencing by trial Judge Ti a Fisher on Dec. 19. In September, 2010 the California Supreme Court refused to review the case against two young men convicted for their roles in the April 2006 shooting deaths of two teenagers in Hacienda Heights over a drug dispute. The state's highest court denied petitions seeking review of the case against Salvador Villanueva and Angelo Jacob Vasquez. On May 6, a three-justice panel from the 2nd District Court of Appeal rejected the defense's contention that there were errors in the pair's trial in Pomona Superior Court. In the 15-page ruling, the justices noted that Villanueva and Vasquez were convicted as "aiders and abettors" in the April 3, 2006, slayings of Christopher Trevizo, 15, and Demetries Flores, 17, and the attempted murder of Flores' brother.

"Murray, Vasquez and Villanueva were all carrying guns as they spotted the Trevizo trio and then followed them into the wash area," the justices noted in their ruling.

Murray shot and killed Trevizo and Flores and shot at but missed Flores' brother, while Villanueva and Vasquez pointed guns at the Flores brothers but fired no shots, according to the appellate court panel's ruling. After the shooting, the three defendants showered and then disposed of their guns and clothes, according to the ruling.

JLWOP Inmate Dusty Tyrone Castillo

Calling him a "sociopath" with "extremely violent and predatory tendencies," a Superior Court judge in Van Nuys Friday sentenced an 18-year-old Simi Valley man to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the robbery and murder of a Porter Ranch pizzeria manager. Dusty Tyrone Castillo was also sentenced to 36 years and 8 months in state prison on another 20 felony counts, including at least a dozen assaults and bank, restaurant and clothing store robberies he committed during a crime spree from November 1992 to January 1993.

Handcuffed and wearing jail blues and a white rosary, Castillo smiled at members of the Holden family who told Castillo how he destroyed their family the night in 1993 when he killed John Michael Holden, 19.

“You took my brother, and you took my sense of family,” Kelly Holden said. “You are a predator of society.”

The victim’s mother, Carol Holden, said two murders actually were committed that night. “The first murder was of my precious son, the second was my family,” she said.

Judge Charles L. Peven said Castillo “would scare the hell out of everybody” and seemed to derive excitement and pleasure by inflicting fear and pain in others. Because of Castillo’s violent nature, Peven said he would recommend sending Castillo to a maximum-security prison, such as San Quentin or Pelican Bay.

A probation report from the California Youth Authority recorded Castillo’s long list of crimes and his violent nature. In it, Castillo blamed a deprived childhood for his criminal tendencies, and said anyone who tried to help him was wasting their time.

“My son is the kind of guy, who if someone like Dusty walked up to him, he’d help him,” Carol Holden said. “We need more Johns, not more Dustys.” Castillo was reported as saying, “I will always smile and outlive the relatives of the victim who cheered at my trial.”

“He’s smiling at me right now,” Peven said as he passed sentence. “He smiled throughout the whole trial.”

According to police, Castillo and two others—Alex Velasquez, 19, and Oscar Villanueva, 18—went to rob the pizza parlor the evening of Jan. 14, 1993. While Villanueva waited in the car, Castillo and Velasquez confronted Holden and demanded money.

Holden gave them \$450 and offered them the checks from under the register, his mother said, but Castillo shot the Moorpark College student anyway, point-blank in the chest.

All three were under 18 years of age when the killing occurred, but were ordered to stand trial as adults. Villanueva pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 16 years to life in a state prison, though he will serve the first seven years in a juvenile facility. Velasquez pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in exchange for a sentence of 26 years to life in prison.

Lydia Nelson, Castillo’s mother, said she has shed a lot tears for the victim’s family, but believes she and her son have been persecuted throughout the trial.

“But I will not abandon him in his hour of need,” she said.

JLWOP Inmate Leon Durell Hobley

Wanda Johnson says Leon Durell Hobley should die for 1991 slayings. But Hobley, a gang member, who was a minor when he murdered Demon Johnson and a friend, gets maximum penalty of life in prison. Hobley was arrested in July, but escaped from officers as he was led into the Inglewood courthouse for a hearing. When he was found in October, he had a handcuff key dangling from his necklace, authorities said at the time.

Hobley’s attorney, Tom Althaus, said robbery motivated the slayings. He agreed with Jennings that the crime was “horrendous,” but he urged the judge to allow Hobley the chance for parole—after serving 55 years in prison, when he would be 74 years old. Jennings suggested that prosecutors would have sought the death penalty if Hobley had been an adult at the time of the crime. Althaus said Hobley’s conduct was inexcusable, but could be explained in light of his background in a violent Compton neighborhood and a troubled household. Hobley, Althaus said, was shuffled among relatives including a drug-addicted mother, who in an interview after the

hearing acknowledged past drug use and displayed scars on her leg from four gunshot wounds she said she sustained in a drive-by shooting.

“I don’t think he did it,” said Veldayvatta Hobley Pollard. And if he did, Pollard said, “probably the people he was hanging out with” drove him to the crime.

“He was a regular child who grew up in a ghetto,” said Pollard, who quarreled with Johnson’s relatives in the hallway, although Hobley’s great-grandmother, Carola Thomas Childs, hugged and kissed Wanda Johnson during a break in the proceedings.

“He had to live by the rules and regulations of the area he stayed in,” Pollard added. Childs said she took Hobley to church when he was a child so he would “be God-fearing.” When he developed an “attitude problem,” she said, he received psychological counseling, although his frequent moves among relatives made it hard to keep it up. In her testimony, Wanda Johnson transfixed courtroom observers as she testified about her anguish and scolded Hobley.

“My son’s life was not such where he needed your cowardly help (to put him) out of his misery,” said Johnson, whose son worked as a janitor while caring for an infant daughter. “So don’t stand straight (and) pat yourself on the back too soon because it doesn’t take courage to be a coward.

“I gave my all, and then some, as a teen-age mother to raise my son to be a decent human being, and all that for him to be taken out by a wimp,” she continued. “We have to stop patting these criminals on the back . . . We must stop letting crime pay.”

The death penalty, Johnson said, must be regularly implemented “to show these criminals what it feels like, the fright of knowing . . . you’re going to die.”

JLWOP Inmate Marcos Salcido

Jose Alberto was at home and his parents were in the living room watching television. His younger brother, Pedro, had been outside saying goodbye to his girlfriend. Jose Alberto heard gunshots. At first he didn’t do anything, but then he heard his mother scream so he ran outside. Pedro was standing by the front gate, bleeding from two gunshot wounds to the head. Jose Alberto’s mother, Maria, testified she and her husband went outside when they heard the gunshots. Maria saw Pedro standing in the front yard. She also saw three young men near Pedro. These men were “passing by, walking by” Pedro. Maria testified her husband, Jose Luis, tried to apprehend these men: “He saw them so close by that his first impulse was to run towards them, to grab them.” Maria ran to Pedro and hugged him.

At the time of the shooting, Joaquin Zepeda was outside, leaning on his car which was parked just up the street from Jose Alberto’s house. When he heard the gunshots, Zepeda felt a hot sensation on his neck like the burn from a passing bullet. He saw an older man running up the street after someone and yelling “Agarre,” which Spanish is for “grab him.” Zepeda testified he heard, but did not see, at least two other people running up the street at this time. Zepeda saw the older man fall to the ground. Baldwin Park Police Officer Luis Valdivia was on patrol at the time and responded to a radio call about shots fired. He was flagged down by a man and told someone had been shot. Valdivia found Jose Luis lying on the ground, bleeding from the chest. The wound was fatal.

Other officers found Pedro lying on the ground in front of his house. He had been shot six times and he was pronounced dead by responding paramedics. A single .40-caliber expended shell casing and seven 9-millimeter expended shell casings were found near Pedro’s body. Three more 9-millimeter expended shell casings were found up the street, closer to Jose Luis’s body.

“[T]he evidence of Salcido’s and Rodriguez’s direct participation in the shootings was clear and definitive. Through their own testimony and statements to the police, Rodriguez and Salcido admitted planning and undertaking the shootings . . . Salcido . . . admitted to firing the first shot, though he implausibly asserted that this act somehow was supposed to discourage Islas and Rodriguez from consummating the planned shooting. Similarly, though Rodriguez tried to minimize his role and degree of culpability, [he] admitted to carrying a .22 caliber handgun at the time of the shooting, that he had heard talk of putting in work as he drove around in the car with Islas and Salcido and that he had walked toward the house with his gun drawn.”

JLWOP Inmate David Adkins

David Adkins gets life without possibility of parole, and Vincent Hebrock receives 51 years to life in 1991 shotgun slaying of teen-age girls.

Two young men convicted in the 1991 shotgun slayings of three teen-age girls in Pasadena were given maximum sentences after a judge heard emotional accounts from members of the victims’ families about how the murders had devastated their lives.

Pasadena Superior Court Judge J. Michael Byrne sentenced David Adkins, 18, to life in prison without the possibility of parole and Vincent Hebrock, 19, to 51 years to life. The two defendants, who had been found guilty by separate juries last August, sat grim-faced and rigid as the judge read the sentences

JLWOP Inmate James Amadeo

On July 8, 1997 19-year-old James Amadeo, who was convicted of beating a probation officer to death with a table leg in order to escape from a juvenile detention center, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Judge Robert Perry called James Amadeo an “intractable” and “sophisticated” criminal for laying in wait and killing 58-year-old Arnold Garcia in 1994 when Amadeo was sixteen-years-old and incarcerated at Dorothy Kirby Correctional Center in Industry.

JLWOP Inmate Ritch Bryant

His head freshly shaved, wearing a blue and white jail uniform and slouching in his chair, an avowed white supremacist was condemned Monday to spend the rest of his life in prison for beating a black homeless man to death to earn lightning bolt tattoos.

Asked by the judge whether he had anything to say before he was sentenced, Ritch Bryant, 20, replied, “What is there to say? Do whatever you’ve got to do.”

Bryant, a member of the Lancaster white supremacist group Nazi Low Riders, was one of three skinheads convicted of killing 43-year-old Milton Walker Jr. two days after Thanksgiving 1995. Prosecutors said it was the first murder case of its kind in memory.

On November 22, 1999, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Lance Ito sentenced Bryant to life in prison without the possibility of parole, plus five years for additional allegations. Walker’s killing was neither Bryant’s first crime nor even his first race-related crime. According to court documents, he was arrested seven times between the ages of 12 and 16 on charges including theft, battery and cruelty to animals.

In December 1995, he was one of five or six juveniles who beat and stabbed a black student on the baseball field at Antelope Valley High School. Although he was only 16, he was treated as an adult, convicted and sentenced to eight years in prison, which Ito said he must complete before beginning his current life sentence.

JLWOP Inmate Joe Patrick Gaines

Joe Patrick Gaines, 18, was convicted of fatally shooting a retired schoolteacher, Kathryn Dawson, execution-style in her home and robbing her of \$20.00. The victim was a longtime family friend of Gaines, a gang member who committed the robbery and murder when he was seventeen. On July 8, 2002 Gaines was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. At the time of the robbery and murder, Gaines was on probation for carrying a firearm.

Gaines and another teenager, Ollie Wayne Hawkins Jr., 17, robbed Dawson. Hawkins testified that he watched Gaines force the 73-year-old woman to lie down with a pillow over her head, then shoots her once in the head.

JLWOP Inmate Louis Andres Gomez

Two years after Louis Gomez was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for the murder he committed on November 11, 1994, he killed again. His next victim was another inmate at Calipatria State Prison, 41-year-old Abe Mendibles who he stabbed to death in a prison classroom on April 13, 1008.

Gomez was tried and convicted of second degree murder of Abe Mendibles and assault with a deadly weapon by a life prisoner with malice aforethought. This murder conviction was affirmed by the appellate court as was the life without possibility of parole sentence and its five-year enhancement which the trial court had ordered to run consecutive to the sentence (the JLWOP life without possibility of parole) that Gomez was serving at the time of the prison murder.

JLWOP Inmate Francisco Perez

Francisco Perez was seventeen when he shot and killed a Paramount High School honors student during a robbery attempt at a fast-food restaurant on June 17, 1992. Superior Court Judge Steven Suzukawa sentenced Francisco Perez on December 20, 1993 to life without possibility of parole for the first-degree murder and attempted robbery of victim Alfred Clark plus six years for the attempted robbery.

Clark, a star football player, sprinter and honors student who was to enter UCLA on a scholarship, was killed on the eve of his high school graduation, just after picking up his cap and gown. He was eating lunch with friends at a McDonald's restaurant.

Perez demanded that Clark give him Clark's portable compact disc player. When Clark refused, Perez shot him in the chest and killed him.

JLWOP Inmate Oscar Mora

Oscar Mora was a 16-year-old Hollywood boy when he fatally shot to death three youths after one of the victims shouted a rival gang's name. A fourth youth was also wounded in the April 10, 1991 gun rampage. On June 6, 1992 Mora was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the multiple murders.

JLWOP Inmate Cindy Brown

Cindy Brown, then seventeen-years-old, and four others were charged in connection with the killing of Ruby Chong, a Long Beach woman who was beaten and stabbed in her home on December 2, 1993. At trial, there was evidence that one of the co-defendants, Kenny Johnson

was trying to strangle the victim with a rope, and that Cindy Brown cut the victim's throat with a knife. Prior to going to the home, the defendants had planned to rob and kill the victim. Cindy was convicted of first degree murder with special circumstances of committing the slaying during commission of a burglary and robbery and was sentenced to life without possibility of parole on December 10, 1996.

JLWOP Inmate Amy Lynn Preasmyer

A jury found Amy Lynn Preasmyer guilty of the August 12, 1997 special circumstance, lying in wait murder of her then fiancé, Richard Cowles, Jr.; conspiracy to commit murder; and solicitation of murder. She was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole on February 5, 2008. She was successful in an appeal to reverse the solicitation of murder conviction on the grounds that it was time barred, but the appellate court confirmed the special circumstance first degree murder conviction in April of 2010. At the time of Cowles' murder, Preasmyer was sixteen and pregnant. Amy's friends, Jennifer Kellogg and Sara Chapin, stayed at Ricky and Amy's apartment for about one week in August 1997, but . Ricky wanted them to leave because he didn't approve of Jennifer and Sara because they did drugs. This caused friction and on August 11th, Amy. and Ricky fought over whether her friends should leave.

Weeks before August 12, 1997, Jennifer asked Billy Hoffman, a longtime friend of Amy's, if he would kill somebody. He agreed. Billy met with Jennifer and Amy and they gave Billy gloves and potatoes, which Billy believed would silence noise from the gun, and a picture of the victim. Billy was shown the apartment's layout, including the master bedroom upstairs. Billy understood that he was to be paid for the killing. Billy then purchased a gun from a friend, David Asbury. Billy, David and another friend, Joey Green, took the gun to the desert and practiced shooting it before the murder.

On the day of the killing, Amy and Jennifer drove Billy to the apartment, armed with a gun, hammer and claw... Amy had arranged for Ricky to come home at 9:00 pm, and she made sure she was with Ricky's sister that evening. When he heard Ricky get home, Billy hid behind the bedroom door upstairs. When Ricky entered the room, Billy hit him with the hammer. Billy then shot him in the forehead, followed by two hammer strikes. After the murder, Billy told several people about it, and received help in disposing of the weapons and his clothes.

In 1998, Joey Green was arrested in an unrelated crime, and he gave the police information about the Cowles murder. Billy was then arrested in April 1998 for Ricky's murder. At his 1999 trial, after unsuccessfully arguing that Green was the killer, Billy was found guilty and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. L later in 2002, Billy wrote to Ricky's parents and confessed his part in the murder, and later told investigators he would testify against Amy. Amy was arrested in 2005, and while in custody, she had an incriminating jailhouse conversation with Jennifer that was secretly recorded, and later played at trial.

JLWOP Inmate Bopha Bounpraseuth

Bopha Bounpraseuth was convicted of two counts of first degree murder and one count of attempted murder. On November 8, 1996, he was sentenced to two consecutive life without possibility of parole terms with enhancements of ten years on each count, and additional concurrent sentences for the attempted murder and other enhancements.

On March 4, 1995, Jennifer Soto, Sergio Soto and Angie Bays were all gunned down by Bounpraseuth after Jennifer accidentally backed into a parked car while leaving their apartment. When Jennifer was trying to notify her neighbor about the accident, Bounpraseuth

came out of the neighbor's apartment and started an argument, pulled his gun and fatally shot Jennifer and Sergio and seriously wounded Angie. When the gunfire erupted, the victims' three children ranging from three months to five years of age were in the car, but escaped injury. At the sentencing hearing, Judge Robert Armstrong told Bounpreaseuth that he had forfeited his right to live in a free society ever, and recommended to prison authorities that he always be incarcerated in maximum security units as the Court found him be so dangerous that the Court felt he would be dangerous to other inmates if allowed to be housed in general population units.

JLWOP Inmates Robert Ramirez and Larry Hernandez

On June 9, 1995 Robert Ramirez and Larry Hernandez murdered Officer Louis Pompei of the Glendora Police Department when the off duty police officer intervened in an armed robbery of a grocery store being committed by Robert Ramirez and Larry Hernandez.

Ramirez, two months shy of eighteen and Hernandez, then 16 planned to commit the armed robbery of Von's supermarket. Ramirez went to a check stand, pointed his gun at clerk Elvia Lucero and demanded money, with Hernandez robbing Nancy Fabun at the adjoining check stand. When victim Bryan Ryall, a mentally challenged bagger, didn't comply with Ramirez' command to get down because he didn't understand it, Ramirez pistol whipped him in the head, striking him repeatedly. At this point, Officer Louis Pompei verbally identified himself as a police officer and demanded the robbers drop their weapons. A gun battle then erupted between the officer and the robbers with the officer shooting each robber, and both robbers shooting the officer multiple times. Officer Pompei had already received multiple gunshot wounds when Ramirez shot him in the back.

Hernandez's older brother Daniel was the driver of the .getaway car and helped plan the robbery. In order to escape the death penalty which he was eligible to receive because he was an adult, Daniel Hernandez pled guilty for his participation in the crimes in exchange for a 26 years to life term. Although he later tries to withdraw his plea based on an ineffective assistance of counsel argument, his motion was denied.

The police arrested all three males when they found them at an emergency room in a nearby hospital where they had gone to receive medical treatment for their wounds, telling the hospital and authorities that they had been shot in a drive by shooting.

On April3, 1996 Robert Ramirez and Larry Hernandez were sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the murder of Officer Louis Pompei while they were committing a robbery and a ten year enhancement for the personal use of a firearm to run concurrent with the four year, ten year enhancement for assault with a firearm on victim Bryan Ryall.

JLWOP Inmates Bobby White and Derrick Wilson

On June 7, 1996 White and Wilson were sentenced to two concurrent terms of life without possibility of parole for the 1995 murder of Chino Valley Bank clerk Teresa Ann Hernandez and the attempted murder of bank security officer Eddie Scott. Their sentence for the attempted robbery was stayed pending the finality of the judgment on the other counts.

During the attempted robbery of the bank, victim Teresa Hernandez attempted to hide and was cowering on the floor when Derrick Wilson pulled her up by her hair, put a gun to her neck, and both he and White pistol whipped her. Bobby White then fatally shot Teresa Hernandez.

Two other co-conspirators in the crimes were sentenced for their participation in the crimes. Kareem Brown was an adult at the time and he was also sentenced to life without possibility of parole. Although the trial judge originally sentenced the fourth defendant, Jamon Carr to life

without possibility of parole, he vacated the sentence and modified it to life with possibility of parole because he felt Carr was less culpable and he was not personally armed.

JLWOP Inmate Gary Baze

On July 28, 1995 Baze and three of his friends approached a car that was stopped at an intersection, and at gunpoint ordered the driver Vicente San Jose to get in the backseat. Gerald Manny Marshall, then fourteen, had taken a gun belonging to his mother, which the four friends used in the crimes. Baze then drove the victim's 1988 Toyota to the mountains and told the victim to get out of the car. He then shot the victim four times, twice in the head and twice in the chest. After Vicente's body was found on Mt. Baldy Road by a passerby, investigating officers discovered that the victim died clutching a rosary with a second rosary in his pocket.

The four teenagers then picked up two teenage girls and they then drove to Santa Barbara. During the drive, the four discussed the carjacking and shooting with the girls and showed them the weapon. The car had a flat tire and while the teenagers were at a Texaco station to fix it, they were stopped by the police and the police found the gun under the seat with Vicente San Jose's wallet beside it.

On March 27, 1996, Baze was sentenced for the first degree murder, the kidnapping for carjacking, and kidnapping for robbery convictions. He was sentenced to life without possibility of parole plus a ten year enhancement for the murder, and concurrent term of life with possibility of parole for the kidnapping charges. As Marshall was under sixteen at the time of the crimes, he received a lesser term and was sent to the California Youth Authority.

JLWOP Inmate Raymond Salvador Ramirez

Ramirez was convicted of first degree murder, two counts of second degree robbery, assault with a deadly weapon and conspiracy to commit a robbery. On August 20, 2003, he was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the murder of Carmen Castro plus twelve years on the other counts with the twelve years sentence stayed until the finality of the LWOP sentence.

Raymond whose gang moniker was "Baby Lizard" and fellow members of the Puente Street Gang planned to rob a tax preparer's business. They entered the C. Castro & Associates business on August 20, 2002 where they cut the phone lines and demanded the cell phones of all the occupants. Raymond stayed in the doorway to be the lookout. The three other gang members inside robbed Carmen Castro and Maria Lado; they forced Maria Lagos, Luis Lagos, and Carmilo Castro on the floor. Carmen Castro was fatally shot during the robbery by co-defendant Juan Soto. As the gang members were leaving, Raymond Ramirez assaulted Charles Visitor with a deadly weapon so they gang members could make a getaway.

JLWOP Inmate Dennis Barroso

Dennis Barroso was convicted for the 1998 murder and robbery of Gilbert Rivas, three counts of attempted robbery of Sharon Molina, Joseph Molina and Edward Rivas, and the robbery of Czarina Wu and the taking of her car. On September 10, 1999, Barroso was sentenced to life without possibility of parole plus enhancements of 25 years to life for the Rivas murder and robbery, plus 29 years and four months for the other crimes.

Barroso and his fellow gang member Perez jumped out of their car with firearms and approached a group of young pedestrians to rob them. In the course of attempting the robbery of the pedestrians, Barroso shot and killed Gilbert Rivas. Barroso had asked the group of young

people where they were from, and when Gilbert replied “Nowhere. We don’t gang bang”, Barroso shot Gilbert in the stomach and Perez shot him in the head and back.

In another incident, female gang member Solano was driving with Barroso and Perez when they followed Czarina Wu and blocked her car when she parked. Barroso and Perez approached Wu’s car with a shotgun and handguns, forcing Wu out of her car and stealing her Infiniti. They robbed Wu of her purse, credit cards, watch and necklace. After robbing Wu, they drove to Rosemead, followed a man into his driveway, attempted to block him in the driveway, but the man reversed his car and evaded them, Barroso then fired the shotgun at the fleeing victim.

JLWOP Inmates Edwin Cruz and Osvaldo Ramos

On April 8, 2007 Edwin Cruz and Osvaldo Ramos murdered Mychael Whittaker to carry out gang activity for their 12th Street gang. Cruz and co-defendant Ramos lured victim Whittaker to a site for a drug buy, then Cruz shot him four times and stole the drugs. Ramos had called Whittaker to arrange the drug buy and when Whittaker arrived, Cruz killed him.

The jury in the first trial of Osvaldo Ramos for his participation in the murder of Mychael Whittaker could not reach a unanimous verdict and the case against Ramos ended in a mistrial. At the retrial, the jury found Ramos guilty of the first degree murder and robbery of Whittaker. On April 1, 2009, he was sentenced to life without possibility of parole, and 25 years to life for the enhancements.

On May 27, 2007, Edwin Cruz and two fellow gang members, Johnny Mejia and Kevin Mejia picked up another of their gang members, Victor Tejada. They told Tejada that a rival gang member had killed one of the 12th Street gang members, and they had to retaliate. Cruz and Tejada had gotten out of the car and gone into an alley when Cruz suddenly ran back to the car. Kevin Mejia then got out as planned and opened fire on Tejada, fatally shooting him.

On July 15, 2008 Cruz was sentenced to two terms of life without possibility of parole plus fifty additional years for enhancements for the murders of victims Mychael Whittaker and Victor Tejada, and the robbery of victim Whittaker.

JLWOP Inmate Valentino Arenas

On April 21, 2004 California Highway Patrol Sgt. Thomas Steiner was brutally murdered in front of the Pomona courthouse where he had just testified in several traffic cases. Valentino Arenas was searching for a uniformed law enforcement officer to kill as a way of garnering respect from his 12th Street gang and move up the ranks. He may have also been trying to impress his father who had recently been paroled from prison and who was a longtime Pomona 12th Street gang member. Arenas, driving a red Nissan, pulled up next to Sgt. Steiner in the parking lot, jumped out and opened fire, shooting Sgt. Steiner multiple times. A witness heard Valentino say “Twelve” before he started firing.

On March 10, 2005 Arenas was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for murdering a police officer in the performance of his duty, plus 25 years for enhancements.

JLWOP Inmate David Galvez

On March 20, 2005 David Galvez whose gang moniker was “Dopey” murdered Naftalie Flores as payback for a fellow Olive Street gang member being killed. Galvez used a rifle to shoot victim Flores. He then shot victim Anthony Lopez after Lopez flashed gang signs at him.

Galvez was convicted of two counts of murder and sentenced to life without possibility of parole on October 25, 2006.

JLWOP Inmate Augustine Zamora

On July 21, 2000 Zamora fatally shot Jose Sanchez during a robbery. Even though the victim handed over the money demanded in the robbery, Zamora shot him in the neck. Jose Sanchez remained in a coma for a month before succumbing to his injuries. Months later Zamora committed another robbery and struck that victim with a handgun.

On October 24, 2002 Zamora was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the murder during the commission of a robbery, and additional years for the robbery and enhancements of using a firearm.

JLWOP Inmate Anthony Hernandez

On March 15, 2010, Hernandez was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the first degree murder and robbery of victim Jose Carillo.

On January 11, 2008, co-defendant Itzel Gutierrez conspired with Erica Rodriquez, Anthony Hernandez and Armando Torres to rob her stepfather by luring him to a motel by promising to supply him with a prostitute and drugs. Erica gained entrance to the motel room by pretending to be the prostitute, A few minutes later Hernandez and Torres knocked on the door and when it was opened, they burst into the room.

Both of the males beat the victim by punching him repeatedly in the head after Hernandez had the victim in a chokehold. Torres then strangled him with a bed sheet.

JLWOP Inmate Gonzalo Marquez Marquez

On September 24, 1984 Marquez was convicted of the 1981 first degree murder of Ascencion Hernandez and 1979 second degree murder of Angel Rodriquez with the special circumstances finding of multiple murders committed in the course of a robbery and burglary. Although this was initially a capital case, Marquez is now serving a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. According to records of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Marquez, who is in his mid forties, is the oldest jLWOP inmate incarcerated in California.

Marquez admitted that he fatally shot Angel Rodriquez in the head as Rodriquez was fighting Marquez' cousin in December of 1979.

On March 15, 1981, Marquez was with Miquel Reyes and Jaime Pulido when the three robbed Ascencion Hernandez during a home invasion robbery. Marquez was convicted of the Hernandez murder under the felony murder rule as he did not personally use the firearm used to kill Hernandez, and stood at the door as the lookout for his two co-defendants.

JLWOP Inmate George Gallegos

George Gallegos and David Martinez were members of "A2M" ("Addicted to Money" or "Addicted to Murder" gang which was affiliated with the Harpy's gang The S4M (Sex for the Money) gang was a rival of both the A2M and Harpy's gang.

Brian Verdesoto, a Harpy's gang member, was killed, and George Gallegos and Martinez went to the funeral together on October 29, 2006. Several funeral attendees later told police both of them were angry about the Verdesoto murder.

The evening of the funeral Manuel Vega, Freddie Saravia, and a third male were standing outside a liquor store when a black Nissan stopped near them. The passenger asked Vega, "What do you write?" Vega replied, "S4MK." When Vega stepped off the sidewalk, he heard shots fired, and ran to a staircase where he found Saravia, shot in the chest. Martinez was the driver of the car, and Gallegos was the passenger who fired the shots.

On July 3, 2007, police arrested George Gallegos for another murder. Immediately following the arrest, officers executed a search of Gallegos's home pursuant to a warrant and found evidence connected to the Saravia murder. Gallegos was sentenced to life without possibility of parole on September 29, 2008 for the murder of Freddie Saravia.

JLWOP Inmate Lawrence Cottle

Lawrence Elliot Cottle, a member of the Raymond Avenue Crips gang, was sentenced to life in prison without parole after he was convicted of the murder of Newport Beach businessman Alan Peterson Sr.

Peterson, 62, was fatally shot in the chest on November 14, 1996 in the parking lot of a Jack in the Box restaurant. Cottle killed Peterson after an attempted theft of Peterson's car.

JLWOP Inmates Isaac Martinez and Juan Solis

Isaac Martinez and Juan Solis were both members in the Cypress Park gang. On January 29, 2006; they went to a party where some of the attendees were from a rival gang, The Avenues. Fights started at about 11:00 p.m. which led to the death of the victims. A barrage of gunfire by Martinez and Solis left two young men dead. Victim Jacob Santiago was shot five times in the back and victim Jesse Mendoza was shot sixteen times. Ballistics proved that each defendant had shot both victims.

On November 27, 2007, Martinez and Solis were sentenced to two life without possibility of parole terms with two additional life terms to run consecutive.

JLWOP Inmate Johnney Izaquirre

On August 14, 2003 Johnney Izaquirre was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the drive by first degree murder of Jose Bernal and three counts of attempted murder of victims Lionell Rivera and Jose Chaves, and Eric Garcia. Victims Rivera and Chavez were both shot and wounded, and Izaquirre shot at Eric Garcia, but missed him. The four victims were all unarmed young men who were leaving an after prom party when they became the innocent victims of a drive by shooting in East Los Angeles on June 1, 2002.

Izaquirre was also sentenced to a twenty five year enhancement for using a firearm in the drive by murder of Jose Bernal, plus three 25 to life consecutive terms on each of the attempted murders, plus additional enhancements.

JLWOP Inmate Tyrone Douglas

Tyrone Douglas was sentenced to life without possibility of parole plus 33 years and 8 months for the murder and robbery of Jose Puente. There was also a finding by the jury that the crimes were for the benefit of a gang. Douglas aka "Iceman" had been a gang member of the EC Crips since the age of twelve, and his parents were also gang members.

Douglas and three accomplices committed the robbery and murder of Jose Puente at World Video. Douglas had provided fellow gang member Tony Sandman the gun used in the murder, he planned the robbery, he demanded the victim give them money, and he was the lookout when Sandman shot the victim

Two days after Puente's murder, Douglas robbed Kragans. Douglas was also convicted of the robbery of victim Myra Mendez plus the firearm and gang enhancements Douglas was on probation at the time of the robbery/murder of Jose Puente.

JLWOP Inmate William Hodgson

On December 12, 2000 Hodgson and a fellow Harvards gang member and accomplice Victor Salazar robbed a young woman and murdered her as she was arriving home. Jee Nam, age 20 had pulled into her parents' home gaining entry to her family's residence garage with a key card. Salazar approached the victim's car, shot through the window, and struck the victim twice, fatally wounding her.

Hodgson held the electric gate open for his accomplice acting as a lookout and providing an escape route for his accomplice. He was convicted of murder and robbery and sentenced on December 4, 2002 to life without possibility of parole with a consecutive term of 25 years to life. The jury also found that the crime was committed to benefit a street gang.

JLWOP Inmate Travon Robinson

Travon Robinson was convicted of the April 14, 2000 first degree murder of Larry Robinson and four counts of attempted murder of victims Daniel Orozco, Josue Gonzales, Travoyne Mathews, and Juan Calderon.

Robinson was on probation at the time he committed these crimes and was a member of the 59th Street Hoover Crips gang. Victim Larry Robinson (no relation to inmate) was on his porch chatting with three neighbors when Travon walked up to his porch and started firing. Travon Robinson then reentered his car and he and another gunman continued to fire shots from the car. Ballistics showed two guns were used and fourteen rounds fired.

Victim Mathews was affiliated with the Six Deuce East Coast Crops which was a rival gang to the gunman's gang, but at trial the gang enhancement was stricken as the court found there was not enough proof that the gunman actually knew that victim Mathews was affiliated with the rival gang. None of the other victims had any gang affiliations.

On January 23, 2002, Robinson was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the murder and four consecutive twenty-five years to life terms for each attempted murder. The enhancements were ordered to run concurrent.

JLWOP Inmate Kenny Santana Johnson

Kenny Johnson was sentenced on November 7, 1996 to life without possibility of parole for the murder of Ruby Nell Chung during an attempted robbery that occurred on December 2, 1993. He was also convicted of the robberies of Suny Min and Hong Min and the attempted robbery of Young Bu Lee. Santana conspired with others to commit a home invasion type robbery, provided the rope that was used to strangle the murder victim Ruby Chung, and participated in the home invasion.

JLWOP Inmate Fernando Lopez

Lopez was convicted of the double murder of victims Jose Pacas and Seung Hong during separate robberies. He was also found guilty of personally using a firearm, robbery, and attempted robbery. Lopez received two consecutive terms of life without possibility of parole for the special circumstances murder.

Inmate Ralph Steven Flores

Ralph Steven Flores began his spree of murders in 1999 when he was seventeen and murdered a 16-year-old African-American boy in a racially motivated killing. Christopher Lynch was slain in 1999 while hosting a party for a young woman in Azusa. Flores, an Azusa gang member, continued to commit gang related murders over the next several years.

In 2003, Flores murdered Claudia Chenet in the mistaken belief that she had cooperated with police in an investigation that led to the arrest of another gang member. In 2004 in separate incidents a few days apart, Flores murdered Miguel Reyes outside a Christmas party and a few days later, he murdered Denise Luna.

Flores was convicted of four special circumstances murders, including the 1999 murder of Lynch and was formally sentenced to death. The judge imposed three death sentences for the murders in 2003 and 2004, as well as a sentence of life without the possibility of parole for the 1999 murder. Flores was 17 when Christopher Lynch, the first victim was killed and not eligible for the death penalty for that murder. The judge also sentenced Flores to 75 years to life for firearms allegations found true by the jury and 10 additional years on additional convictions including assault with a firearm.

JLWOP Inmate Evan Joel Alfred

Evan Alfred, a 17-year-old 79 Swans documented gang member, pleaded guilty to a 2007 double murder and other felony counts and was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, plus 25 years to life. Alfred pleaded guilty to two counts of murder with special circumstances, one count of second-degree robbery and one count of attempting to dissuade a witness.

Alfred was seated in the back seat of a Cadillac on June 25, 2007 when he shot the driver in the back of the head and then twice shot a front-seat passenger. The deadly shootings were seemingly motivated by a desire for \$1,000 cash carried by the driver and his vehicle. . When the police recovered the vehicle, they found its interior covered in blood and brain matter. Subsequent DNA testing of the defendant's clothing and shoes – which also were covered in blood – tied him to the murders.

JLWOP Inmate Norman Willover

Norman Willover attempted to rob two female students and then shot them, killing one and severely injuring the other. He then participated that same evening in another drive by shooting in which a fellow gang member fatally shot another woman.

Priya Mathews and Jennifer Aninger were friends and language students at the Monterey Institute of International Studies on January 31, 1998 when they went for a relaxing walk to Monterrey's wharf. . Norman Willover, had recently escaped from a juvenile rehabilitation center in Utah. At trial, evidence was presented that Willover had recently

purchased a handgun at a party and told a friend that he was going to return to Monterey, California, and “cap some people...get some money and live the good life.”

As the two young women were walking, a car approached them. Inside the vehicle were members of the Oriental Boyz gang, including Norman Willover. A car drove toward them. Inside it were Willover and fellow members of the Oriental Boyz gang. Although the women heard yelling, they did not realize the car’s occupants were yelling at them and demanding money. Willover pointed his gun at Mathews and Aninger and began firing. Mathews was shot in the back, Aninger in the head and arm. Willover exchanged “props” or congratulations with his fellow gang members in the car to celebrate his shooting of the two helpless women. Willover and his group then changed cars at a friend’s house because a fellow gang member, Joseph Manibusan, wanted his chance to kill a person. They all drove to nearby Seaside, where Manibusan shot and killed Frances Anne Olivo, a mother of six.

Although Jennifer survived the shooting with permanent impairment, Priza Mathews and Frances Olivio died.

Willover was tried, convicted, and sentenced to two consecutive sentences of life without the possibility of parole plus additional years for the enhancements and attempted murder. Manibusan, who was tried in a separate trial for murder, was convicted and sentenced to death.

ORANGE COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Gerardo Lopez

Gerardo Lopez, a Pacoima gang member who was a juvenile at the time of the offense— was tried as an adult, convicted and sentenced in 2006 to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder of David Montemayor. Co-defendant and fellow gang member Alberto Martinez received the death penalty for his role in the kidnapping and murder of a Buena Park businessman nearly 8 years ago. The jury convicted Martinez, 32, for acting as the getaway driver after Montemayor, 44, was gunned down on a street not far from his home when he tried to escape his kidnappers. Martinez was the fourth defendant to be tried in Orange County for the Oct. 2, 2002, Montemayor slaying. Deputy District Attorney Howard Gundy said that Martinez was part of a team of killers hired by Deborah Ann Perna – Montemayor’s sister – to abduct and kill Montemayor so she could wrest control of the family business. Perna was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in 2006. Anthony Navarro, 44, who hired the Pacoima gang members for Perna, was convicted of first-degree murder plus several special circumstances and was sentenced to death in 2008. Witnesses testified that Perna wanted her brother killed after she learned that their father planned to give control of the family trucking business to his son.

The gang members were supposed to benefit from robbing Montemayor of cash that Perna claimed he had secreted away in coffee cans in his garage, Gundy argued.

But the plot went awry before they got to the garage when Montemayor bolted from the kidnappers on a Buena Park street rather than allow them to take him to his home, where his wife and children were waiting, Gundy said. Montemayor was shot as he ran, igniting a wild police

pursuit that ended in Anaheim when Buena Park police executed a PIT maneuver to disable the car being driven by Martinez. Detectives never found any secret stash in coffee cans.

JLWOP Inmate Thomas (Tommy) Miller

Tommy Miller was convicted of the murder of Carl Claes and was sentenced to life without possibility of parole on March 7, 1997. He was 16 at the time. Miller, a former Tustin High School student, had developed a recent fascination for guns and was charged with firing the shot that killed 14-year-old Carl Dan Claes in a secluded area of Lemon Heights.

The Orange County district attorney's office filed murder charges against Miller, and accused his 15-year-old brother and a 17-year-old friend of aiding him after the slaying. Miller was also accused of robbery and personal use of a firearm in the attack, which investigators say followed a dispute over the victim's \$2,500 sound system.

Miller's attorney told jurors that he was out of control on methamphetamine and was not trying to take Claes's stereo when he shot him. Miller was tried as an adult.

"Tommy Miller is responsible. He did kill Carl Claes," defense attorney William Morrissey said. "He had no understanding of why he'd done what he'd done. He was scared. He was freaked."

JLWOP Inmate Nhut Thanh Vo

On October 5, 2000, Police arrested Nhut Thanh Vo, 19, three years after the gang-related shooting that left 2 people dead at a high school graduation party. Vo's capture came by chance: A Garden Grove police officer, Michael Rosario, pulled Vo over for not wearing a seat belt. Police said Vo acted extremely nervous, fidgeting and sweating. "He was just really afraid of the car stop," Mize said. Rosario, using the computer in his police car, did a thorough check, and discovered a \$500,000 arrest warrant for Vo.

Police had sought Vo for three years. On May 3, 1997, Vo shot 3 people and killed two of them: Tom Huyna and Son Nguyen. Vo was a member of the POV gang which stands for Power of Vietnam. Gang members crashed a graduation party the victims were attending.

Vo received two life without possibility of parole sentences for the two murders, one sentence of life with possibility of parole for the attempted murder plus 6 years for gang and gun enhancements when he was sentenced in Orange County on February 28, 2003. Vo subsequently appealed on the issue of denial of right to speedy trial which appellate court denied, however, his sentence on the attempted murder was reduced to 15 years and the appellate court struck the enhancements.

JLWOP Inmate Brian Mote

Jessica Richards was tried as an adult, convicted of second-degree murder, and sentenced to 15 years to life in prison for her role in the grisly killing of her grandmother, who was stabbed 36 times during a frenzied attack in her home in December 1997.

Richards and boyfriend Brian Mote, then 17, were arrested and charged with murder several days after police discovered Jean Eleanor Richards, 62, stabbed to death at her home in December 1997. Richards' body was discovered Dec. 19 after neighbors noticed a shattered window at her home on Paseo Bonita, police said. Her car was missing from an open garage.

Richards and Mote were found sleeping in the victim's car in Las Vegas. Investigators also found a knife in the car that they believe was the murder weapon.

Family and neighbors said Richards and her granddaughter, whom she had raised, had been arguing in the previous months over school and money. Relatives had tried to have the girl placed in foster care or in a home for troubled teens. Richards' son-in-law, Jim Schroeder, said the family feared for her safety because the girl had threatened her life on several occasions. Police said they had responded to several domestic violence calls at the home.

Richards argued in court that she suffered from manic depression and was not taking her medication around the time of the killing.

JLWOP Inmate Hilario Torres

On April 10, 1997, Hilario Torres was sentenced to life without possibility of parole plus 4 years for gang enhancement and personal use of firearm. He was a member of the Southside Gang and was found guilty of the June 25, 1995 murder of Cupertino Pacheco, second degree robbery of Maria Ibarra, 2 counts of attempted robbery, street terrorism, and felony murder . After being convicted in Orange County, his motion for new trial was denied.

JLWOP Inmate Edel Gonzales

On August 4th, 1991, Edel Gonzales, 16, along with defendants Enrique Morales Segoviano, 18, and Antonio Gonzales, 21, attempted to rob then shot and killed Janet Bicknell, 49, of her 1988 Toyota. Bicknell, who worked as a playground supervisor at a Huntington Beach school, was fatally shot in the head inside her car while returning home from a grocery store. Martinez testified that he and the defendants, who he said are also members of the Santa Ana 5th Street Gang, had been drinking beer and spraying graffiti that night. Gonzalez testified that he and a group of fellow gang members planned to steal a car to do a drive-by shooting in a rival gang's territory. They waited at Bowling Green Park in Westminster and planned to stop the next oncoming car. The scheme turned violent when Bicknell refused to turn her car over to him and his friends in Westminster's Bowling Green Park. She was fatally shot in the head as she tried to drive away, according to police.

Segoviano, the alleged gunman, and Edel Gonzalez were also charged with murder with a special circumstance. The 16-year-old was the first county juvenile to be tried on a special-circumstance charge, according to the prosecuting attorney, Deputy Dist. Atty. John A. Anderson. Five young men, including Gonzalez, were later arrested and charged with murder, attempted robbery, and conspiracy to commit a drive-by shooting, and participating in a gang crime. Two have pleaded guilty to lesser charges.

Although Gonzalez was not the shooter, conviction under the state's felony murder rule makes him just as culpable, Anderson said. The rule states that someone can be held liable for murder if a death occurs during the commission of certain felonies.

During final statements, Deputy Dist. Atty. John S. Anderson, the prosecutor, contended that Gonzalez displayed reckless indifference to human life by participating in a gang-related incident which included a car theft at gunpoint. Anderson told the jury that although Gonzalez realized the danger, he still went along with his fellow gang members and is therefore guilty of first-degree murder and should be sent to prison for life without the possibility of parole.

Edel was found guilty in Orange County of murder, felony murder, street terrorism, and attempted second degree robbery, and sentenced to life without possibility of parole on November 5, 1993.

JLWOP Inmate Oscar David Andrade

The District Attorney filed a special circumstance case for Andrade to be tried as an adult. He murdered Edward Rendon on March 2, 2004. Andrade was a member of Southside Raza gang and he and his three co-defendants Cesar Loza, Luis Loza and Peter Antonio Ruiz were fighting rivals Family Mob

On April 18, 2005, Andrade was found guilty of murder with finding that he personally discharged firearm, and a finding of gang enhancement. Andrade was sentenced to LWOP plus 25 years and his co-defendants got 25 to life terms.

JLWOP Inmate Jose Luis Suarez

Jose Luis Suarez, member of the gang La Jolla was charged with the murder of Manuel Hernandez on May 16, 2006 in Placentia. He was also charged with criminal street gang activity and personal use of firearm. On January 9, 2009 Suarez was sentenced in Orange County and received life without possibility of parole.

The victim had been standing by an ice cream truck when Suarez started shooting. The victim tried to run but was shot five times. Suarez's girlfriend and co-defendant Kandice Ortega was driving the car and Suarez and Ortega were arrested later in Arizona. He was taped in jail talking to another gang member and admitted to shooting victim and said Ortega was with him. Ortega received a sentence of 40 years to life.

JLWOP Inmate Rafael Servin

On March 22, 2003, Rafael Servin and his friend, Mario Fernandez, were visiting Servin's sister and brother-in-law, Maria and Manuel Sierra. Defendant and Fernandez had brought a shotgun with them to the Sierras' home. Defendants had been throwing pipes in the road when Victor Ruiz's and Noemi Robles's car ran over something in the road. Robles saw someone walk from the sidewalk into the street, reach down for something, and return to the sidewalk. After Ruiz parked the car, he and Robles walked back down the street. They saw two young men near the place where the car had run over the object in the road. Ruiz asked the men what they were doing. One of them responded, what's it to you? Why do you care? Ruiz replied, what's it to me, is that somebody is going to end up getting hurt. The man responded, why do you care? It doesn't matter. The man said he would bet \$10 he could kick Ruiz's butt. Ruiz countered; I'll see you're ten. At Robles' urging, Ruiz walked away. After Ruiz and Robles were inside the apartment, Ruiz decided to move the car, and went back outside. After several minutes, Robles went to look for him. Robles saw Ruiz and the two young men in the street. As Robles approached, she saw one of the men run away, then heard a gunshot and saw the other man running away with a shotgun. At trial, Robles identified defendant as the young man with the shotgun. Ruiz was lying in an alley, having suffered a fatal shotgun wound to the head.

The police found a shotgun near the scene of the shooting. Defendants DNA was on the shotgun. Shotgun shell fragments and pellets recovered from Ruiz's skull during an autopsy were consistent with having been fired from that shotgun. On the sidewalk at the scene, police investigators found a steel pipe; a shotgun shell and a beer bottle were also found nearby. Defendants fingerprint and DNA were found on the beer bottle.

Servin and Fernandez were identified as active members of the Bassett street gang. A gang expert testified that gang's primary activities included murder, attempted murder, and assault with a deadly weapon, shooting, robbery, and car theft, possession of weapons, narcotics sales, and witness intimidation. The gang expert opined that defendant murdered Ruiz to benefit his gang, because Ruiz did not show defendant proper respect and because the murder would enhance defendant's status and the status of his gang in the community.

Servin and Fernandez, tried separately, were convicted of first-degree murder and street terrorism. A jury found the specific circumstance and all enhancement allegations to be true. The information that the murder had been carried out in furtherance of gang activities alleged an enhancement to the first count: defendant was a gang member who discharged a firearm causing great bodily injury; he personally discharged a firearm, causing death; and the murder was committed to promote, further, or assist in criminal conduct by a street gang. Defendant was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole on count 1, a consecutive sentence of 25 years to life for the firearm discharge by a gang member enhancement, and a consecutive sentence of 3 years the upper term on count 2. Punishment was stayed on the personal discharge of a firearm enhancement and the gang enhancement. Defendant appealed.

JLWOP Inmate Julio Ponce

Alden Julio Ponce (age 17) killed victim Matthew Maldonado on August 30, 2002. Ponce and co-defendant Trejo were members of Latin Boys Gang. Ponce was charged with murder and with personal use of gun enhancement. Ponce had jumped out of van that Trejo was driving, confronted Matthew and asked him what he claimed, when victim said he didn't, the victim was shot in back.

At sentencing Ponce was given life without possibility of parole sentence and co-defendant Trejo given 50 years to life sentence.

JLWOP Inmate Juan Roldan and Oiram Ayala

On Dec. 15, 2006, Norberto Hernandez, Oiram Roman Ayala and Juan Roldan went to a rival gang neighborhood with guns in search of rivals. When the two gangs began shooting at each other, an innocent street vendor was caught in the crossfire. Victim Gumaro Rojas was shot in the back and paralyzed.

Two days later, then-14-year-old Marco Perez drove Roldan, Hernandez and Garcia into a rival neighborhood. Guadarrama and Ayala were also in the car. The defendants drove around Santa Ana searching for rival gang members to shoot and kill. The defendants spotted three young rival gang members, 14-year-old Angel Secundino, 15-year-old Gabriel Perez, and 16-year-old Fernando Garcia. The defendants murdered Secundino and Gabriel Perez by shooting them execution-style in the head. Victim Garcia was shot in the stomach and seriously wounded.

Juan Roldan, now 21, was convicted by a jury on Sept. 30, 2010, of two felony counts of special circumstances murder for committing multiple murders for the benefit of a criminal street gang, one felony count of attempted murder, two felony counts of street terrorism, one felony count of assault with a firearm, and sentencing enhancements for criminal street gang activity and the vicarious discharge of a firearm as a gang member causing death and bodily injury. Oiram Roman Ayala was found guilty by a jury Sept. 30, 2010, of the same charges as Roldan and was sentenced Oct. 22, 2010, to life in state prison without the possibility of parole. Ayala was also a juvenile at the time of the murders.

Another co-defendant Marco Antonio Perez, now 18, was found guilty by a jury June 25, 2009, of two felony counts of special circumstances murder for the benefit of a criminal street gang, one felony count of attempted murder, one felony count of street terrorism, and sentencing enhancements for criminal street gang activity and the vicarious discharge of a firearm as a gang member causing death and bodily injury. He was sentenced Oct. 23, 2009, to 50 years to life in state prison. Another juvenile co-defendant Prospero Guadarrama, now age 20, faces the same charges as Perez and is set for jury trial May 6, 2011.

Two adult co-defendants, Norberto Hernandez and Angel Garcia, were found guilty in separate trials. Each of these adult co-defendants received two life sentences without the possibility of parole plus Hernandez received an additional 93 years to life and Garcia received an additional fifty years to life.

Former JLWOP Inmate Sara Kruzan

In 1994 Sara Kruzan robbed and murdered George Gilbert Howard, a man who had been her pimp/boyfriend who she referred to as GG. She had left Howard a week before the murder to move in with another boyfriend and pimp#2 named James Hamilton, who was a convicted felon and suspected drug dealer. Kruzan contacted Howard on March 9th for a date and lured him to a motel promising to spend the night with him. On March 10, Kruzan shot Howard in the neck from behind at the Dynasty Suites Motel. She then stole \$1,500 and the keys to his sports car from him, leaving his body at the motel. Sara then met Hamilton and another boyfriend, Johnny Otis in a supermarket. Her identification card and purse were found in the motel room. After she was arrested on March 14th, she admitted her guilt in a police interview. At the trial, she took the stand and testified she had killed Howard, but claimed for the first time that she had killed him after Hamilton ordered her to do it with death threats against her and her mother if she didn't follow his orders. Neither Hamilton nor Otis were charged with the crime as there was insufficient corroborating evidence to support Kruzan's statement.

On Thursday May 11, 1995, a Riverside Superior Court jury of seven women and five men found her guilty of First-Degree murder affirming two special circumstances – that Howard was murdered during a robbery, and that Kruzan had been lying in wait to kill him – to justify a no-parole life term.[2] Judge J. Thompson Hanks described her crime as 'well thought out', stating that 'what is striking about this is the lack of moral scruple' before sentencing her to life without parole.

In February 2010 her habeus corpus appeal was quickly denied. As Governor Schwarzenegger left office he granted her clemency and reduced her sentence to 25 years with parole, after an intensive campaign led by Sen. Leland Yee on her behalf in which she was represented as a human trafficking victim.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Jerrett Lewis

A Palm Springs gang member convicted in the fatal beating and robbery of a 66-year-old security guard was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the June 9, 2007, attack on Bower Security Co. guard Wallace "Danny" Brown.

Lewis was a juvenile at the time of the crime and cannot be given the death penalty. A second co-defendant, Jamar Thomas, 21, was previously convicted of first-degree murder. A jury declined to recommend a death sentence for Thomas, who was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Deputy District Attorney Manny Bustamante has said the victim's attackers were

Gateway Posse Crips gang members who snuck up on Brown's van, which was parked at a construction site in northern Palm Springs. The prosecutor alleged that Lewis and Thomas hurled rocks at the van, shattering the windows, before pulling the guard from the vehicle and beating him for his wallet and cell phone.

JLWOP Inmate Jesus Albert Castillo

On May 21, 2010, a gang member was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the 2007 stabbing death of a man at a Riverside apartment complex. Jesus Albert Castillo of Riverside was convicted in December 2009 of first-degree murder and the attempted murder of a second victim. The jury found true the enhancement that Castillo committed the murder to benefit a criminal street gang.

On Feb. 16, 2007, the murder victim, Gerard Phillips, drove with three others, including his brother-in law and fellow victim, Joseph Faciane, to the North Point Apartments in Riverside.

Faciane was confronted by two men, including Castillo, who asked him where he was from, a phrase commonly used by gang members to see if someone belongs to a gang. Faciane replied he did not "gang bang," meaning he claims no gang membership. Castillo then shouted a gang reference and lunged toward Faciane as if he was going to hit him. Faciane hit Castillo and the two men began to fight.

A second defendant with Castillo, Raul Eduardo Delcid, also jumped into the fight. During the fight, Phillips and Faciane were stabbed multiple times by Castillo. Phillips died and Faciane, who received about 20 staples to help repair his injuries, survived his wounds. Co-defendant Delcid, of Riverside, was convicted in July 2008 of first-degree murder, attempted murder, and criminal street gang activity. He was sentenced in May 2009 to 25 years to life in prison.

JLWOP Inmate Mario Ivan Soto

It took a Riverside County jury about two hours to convict Mario Ivan Soto, a Westside Rivas gang member, of first-degree murder for the Aug. 17, 2005, shooting death of a rival gang member. Jurors also found true a special circumstance that the murder was a gang crime, leading to a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole for Soto.

The main gang rivalry in the Rubidoux area is between the Westside Project Crips and the Westside Riva. The Project Crips or "PJs" are a predominantly black, multigenerational street gang, and the Westside Riva is a predominantly Hispanic street gang

Soto was 17 years old when he shot the victim, Dijuan Jones, 22, four times, including two fatal shots to his back as Jones fell to the ground. Both Soto and Jones lived in the Rudidoux area of Riverside County and had known each other since childhood. but were in rival gangs.

The murder happened outside a business where the victim was having stereo equipment installed in his car. When Jones saw Soto drive by, he sent his girlfriend and children home out of concern for their safety. Soto came back a short time later, hid his face with a hooded sweatshirt and approached the victim with a .45-caliber handgun.

Jones tried to calm the situation and the two spoke for about 10 minutes. Jones and Soto shook hands and the victim had turned to walk away when Soto fired the deadly shots. This murder was committed as part of ongoing violent warfare between the two rival gangs and to further and benefit the criminal activities of Westside Rivas.

JLWOP Inmates Natalie DeMola and Terry Bell

Natalie DeMola plotted with her boyfriend Terry Bell and his friend Christopher Long to .kill her mother, rob her, and make it look like some random burglar did it. Natalie, an honor student and champion swimmer, and her boyfriend had plotted to kill Kim DeMola for at least two months and had bought a set of walkie-talkies to talk to each other while the crime was being committed. They recruited Long, a friend of Bell's, by promising him a share of money and other loot from the DeMola home. On April 10, 2001 they carried out their plot and murdered Kim DeMola.

Natalie stood at an upstairs bedroom window of the family's home, while Terry, and friend Christopher, beat 47-year-old Kim DeMola with their fists. Natalie DeMola ignored her mother's screams for help and then ordered Bell and Long to "finish the job" by beating in her mother's head with a 25-pound floor lamp.

Minutes after the crime, DeMola ran a stop sign and hit a pick-up truck carrying an investigator with the Orange County District Attorney's Office. When DeMola returned to the scene of the accident without the two boys that were clearly seen by the investigator, and telling the cops that there was a robbery in progress at her house, it aroused suspicion.

When police arrived at the house, they found Kim DeMola unconscious in a pool of her own blood. She had tried to escape the house through the sliding glass door in the den as well as through the downstairs bathroom window, as evidenced by the bloody handprints she left behind as a pitiful reminder of her struggle to survive.

She had been brutalized, savagely beaten, with her nose, jaw and ribs being broken. Her skull fracture, caused by the lamp base being slammed onto her head, was the fatal blow. She died eight days later.

Detectives working on the case discovered a series of e-mail and instant-messages between the teenagers and used them as evidence in the trial. In the messages, Bell often referred to himself as a potential murderer and said he would do anything for DeMola, including "kill'n for you."

On July 20, 2005 DeMola and Bell were sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

JLWOP Inmate Dayana Cordova

On December 11, 2009 a judge imposed lengthy prison terms today on two teenage girls who killed a young mother because they wanted her car to go to a theme park. Anna Alejandra Salinas, who was 15 when she shot 20-year-old Angelina Arias in the head as the woman gave Salinas and co-defendant Dayana Cordova a ride home, was sentenced to 59 years to life in prison. Because of her age at the time of the Oct. 18, 2007 murder, Salinas, now 17, could not be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. But Cordova, who was 16 at the time, was sentenced to life without parole.

Cordova, now 18, also received a nine-year sentence for child abuse and kidnapping because she and Salinas drove around with the victim's 9-month-old daughter for about two hours before leaving her on a door step where she remained until being found hours later.

Riverside Superior Court Judge F. Paul Dickerson excoriated the women for their actions and their subsequent lack of remorse: "Callousness on this scale defies comprehension." A probation report prepared about the women cited a videotape of the defendants in a police interview room, laughing and blaming the victim for her own death.

JLWOP Inmates Michael Mercado and Ryan Thomas Bangs

Aaron Michael Mercado and Ryan Thomas Bangs were both convicted of the murder of their 18-year-old classmate Justin Hopper. Both Mercado and Bangs were seventeen when they lured Hopper to the isolated location on a pretense to trade their guns for marijuana, and then they shot Justin and robbed him of \$560.

The Redlands High School student gossip helped solve the 1992 murder. Hopper's stepfather, having heard rumors from students, found Justin's body in a wash across the county line

Both were tried as adults, convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole. Anthony Mercado, son of a prominent dentist and school board member, had a reputation among his peers as being cruel to animals from a very young age.

JLWOP Inmate Fernando Gil Rivera

Separate juries convicted two Perris teenagers of murder committed in a 2004 residential robbery that ended with the deaths of 77-year-old Hubert Love, and an eighteen year old accomplice, Juan Pena.

A jury convicted Fernando Gil Rivera, of murder for shooting Juan Pena, 18, five times inside Love's car after they killed Love. Shawn Malone Khalifa was inside the car at the time of the shooting and helped Rivera dump Pena's body into a canal Pena was shot by Rivera after fighting with him about a gun stolen from Love's home.

Rivera, Khalifa, and Pena were at Khalifa's home when they conspired to rob Love's home

Pena and Rivera killed Love by beating the elderly man to death while Khalifa went through some drawers looking for loot.

When the trial started Rivera pleaded guilty to Love's slaying, but went to trial on Pena's murder. A fourth conspirator Mark Gardner, 20, testified that he saw Khalifa inside Love's home going through drawers. Gardner pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and first-degree burglary for a 13-year prison term.

Under the felony murder rule, although Khalifa didn't himself beat Love he was guilty of Love's murder, because Love was killed during a burglary that the defendant conspired to commit, and was a participant in the burglary.

Khalifa was sentenced to 25 years to life because he was fifteen at the time of the murder. Rivera was sentenced to two terms of life without the possibility of parole plus additional years for enhancements.

JLWOP Inmate Jason Scott Harper

Jason Harper was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for his role as lookout in the robbery and murder of Jamaloddi Doroudi, a Rubidoux store owner. Doroudi was stabbed, his throat was slashed and he was shot as he was handcuffed to the toilet at the 99 Cent Store. Harper was equally liable under felony murder because he provided the handcuffs used to hold the victim and showed his co-defendant Brown where the knife could be found in the store. Harper also took items from the store.

Riverside Superior Court Judge Gordon Burkhar told Harper during sentencing "We cannot trust you to be back among us. What you did was contrary to humanity."

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Maksim Isayev

In 2007, Maksim Isayev, then 17, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole; Gennadiy Sevchuk, then 28, was sentenced to 15 years to life; and Mariya Stepanov, then 19, was sentenced to 15 years to life for their participation in the 2006 murder of Dmitriy Paskar.

Isayev admitted to pumping two rounds from a shotgun into Paskar hitting him in the neck and chest. The prosecution said Stepanov planned the revenge killing of Paskar when she was 18, after the man got her drunk, had sex with her and bragged about it. She texted Paskar urging him to meet her at a park in a quiet residential neighborhood.

Isayev, Stepanov's current boyfriend, drove to the park with a shotgun in his Mazda trunk, walked up to the couple, told Stepanov to step aside, then shot gunned Paskar to death. Investigator traced text messages that revealed how the three defendants set up and carried out this cold-blooded murder.

JLWOP Inmate Doshmen Johnson

Johnson was sentenced to consecutive sentences of life without possibility of parole for the first-degree murder of Perry Steele, 10 years for carrying out the shooting that killed the 27-year-old victim on behalf of the North Highlands-based "TNA" gang, plus 25 years for using a gun.

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Steve White handed down the sentence, calling Johnson's actions "cold blooded." Other than the glorification of his gang, White said, "There appears to be no other purpose to the killing." City police detectives testified Johnson is a member of TNA and that he sought to kill Steele – a rival Del Paso Heights Blood – on the victim's turf to bring glory to his gang.

Steele died in May 2008, one month after being shot in his car while at a stoplight at the intersection of Del Paso and Marysville boulevards. Steele's older sister said her baby brother suffered a "slow and extremely painful death," losing all his limbs before finally succumbing to his injuries.

JLWOP Inmate Darios Mays

Darios Mays was convicted of first-degree murder with a lying-in-wait special circumstance and personal firearm discharge enhancement in the killing of Sheppard Scott while Scott and his girlfriend were waiting in their car to order food at a Jack in the Box drive-through. Scott told his girlfriend one of two guys standing in front of an adjacent AM/PM mini mart had insulted him with a racial slur when they drove in. Scott walked over and confronted the two men. As Scott walked back to his car, his girlfriend saw one of the men, wearing an orange Orioles jacket, pass something to the other man who was dressed in a hooded gray sweatshirt. After the couple collected their ordered food and drove to the exit, someone yelled; "Hey, homie." The man in the gray sweatshirt walked toward them as Scott stopped his car, telling him he wished to apologize. The man extended his hand as if to shake hands. When Scott did the same, the man pulled a gun and shot Scott six times at close range, killing him.

JLWOP Inmates Daniel Russell and Calvin Pearson

16-year-old Daniel Russell and 16-year-old Calvin Pearson broke into the home of Marie Oliver, a 90-year-old great grandmother, and beat her to death in April of 2006. After using her cane and their fists to break her nose, cheekbone, eye socket, and two of her ribs, they stole from her.

What makes this gruesome, horrific crime even more shocking is an interrogation video of them taken three days after the brutal murder that shows them sharing a pizza and drinking soda while discussing how they attacked the woman. In the video, the teen killers laugh about the killing, show no remorse and remark how they should have “been more careful.” They ask each other about whether the other snitched and speculate about how much time they would get for the killing. “Man, we’re doin’ at least a year, knock on wood we don’t.” one of the teen killers opined.

They were each sentenced for first-degree murder with special circumstance allegations of robbery and burglary and each received life in prison with no chance of parole.

JLWOP Inmate Robert Crisler

On August 5, 2004 Mario Vidal Jr. had been visiting friends and as he walked out of their house, he was confronted by six gang members who began to taunt him. He turned to walk away from the group and was shot in the back by gang member Robert Crisler. Although Mario was not a gang member himself, he was an innocent victim in gang dispute between surenos and nortenos. Crisler was sentenced to LWOP for the murder and also sentenced to 25 years to life for personal use of firearm and special circumstance of committing crime to further gang activity.

JLWOP Inmate Dwayne DeLuna

DeLuna and two co-defendants robbed Bistro Pete’s restaurant on October 23, 1994 and in the course of the robbery, DeLuna shot and killed one of the managers, David Lamburth. DeLuna argued at trial that the shooting was accidental, but witnesses testified that Lamburth was shot while he had his hands up, forced into a crouching position, and shot by DeLuna execution style.

DeLuna was seventeen at the time of robbery and murder and was sentenced to LWOP plus 4 years on October 11, 1996.

JLWOP Inmate Frank Osorio

Osorio shot and killed his mother Luz Maria Osorio as she was sleeping on November 21, 1995. After he shot his mother behind the ear, he robbed her of a personal pouch she wore attached to an inside dress strap. Osorio’s father had recently died and his mother had collected \$30,000.in insurance proceeds and kept her cash and credit cards in the pouch. There was trial testimony about the disrespect Osorio showed toward his mother and his out of control conduct. Seventeen year old Osorio fancied himself as a sniper and had business cards printed calling himself a sniper. He was convicted of murder with personal use of firearm finding and of robbery on April 22, 1997. Acquaintances from his community who know this teen killer have contacted NOVJL expressing grave concern over legislation in California that could possibly offer this offender release some day. They told us they believe they would be in very real danger if this legislation were to pass.

JLWOP Inmate Jiles Wallace

Wallace had been a member of the East Side Piru gang since he was fourteen. Wallace was one of five defendants who were charged with murder, robbery and burglary. Of the five defendants, two were considered more culpable by prosecutors than the others as one individual had planned the crime spree and set it in motion, and one had been the actual shooter of victim Scott Lewis. The three co-defendants that the district attorney considered less culpable, including Wallace, were given opportunities to plead to voluntary manslaughter and lesser sentences in exchange for testimony against the two defendants. Two co-defendants accepted the plea bargain. Wallace waived his right to a jury in favor of a court trial, but despite on the record admonitions of sentence exposure, Wallace refused to testify against the two defendants who went to jury trial.

After hearing evidence that at time of the burglary and robbery, Wallace had provided gun to one of the co-defendants, that he himself was armed and that he brandished weapon at surviving victim, the court found him guilty of felony murder of victim Scott Lewis, burglary and robbery and sentenced him to LWOP plus four years on July 25, 1997.

JLWOP Inmate Edward Sanchez

On January 24, 1994 Sanchez and two fellow gang members in the 47th Street gang went to Day's Market to steal beer. One of the gang members went inside, grabbed two twelve packs of beer, and ran out of the store with a clerk chasing him. Sanchez, who had waited outside, fired and fatally shot the store clerk Jitendra Kumar. Sanchez then fired at clerk Kishor Patel. In the gunfight, the stolen beer was dropped, so the trio of gang members went to a second store a few hours later to steal more beer. When the clerk at the second store followed them outside to try to get their license plate number, Sanchez fired at clerk Victor Bargas. Sanchez was convicted of murder, two counts of attempted murder of Patel and Bargas, and robbery. As Sanchez had pled not guilty by reason of insanity, the jury after finding him guilty made a finding that he was sane at the time of his crimes' He was sentenced to LWOP on May 19, 1997.

JLWOP Inmate Ellis Curtis

The victim, 23-year-old Richard Harper was found dead with a shotgun wound to the back of his head. Ellis Curtis was identified as being in a group of people who planned to "jack" a neighbor to get \$150.00 to redeem a towed car belonging to one of the group. Curtis was convicted of being the actual shooter of victim Harper and robbing Harper of his car on September 21, 1993.

Ellis was seventeen when he committed the crimes and was sentenced on August 4, 1995 to LWOP after being convicted of murder and robbery.

JLWOP Inmate Robert Drayton

Drayton and other teenagers had set up an encampment of tents by the river in Sacramento where they had hung out to drink and party in the days preceding the murder of Caecile Lenker on September 28, 1995. The party became violent when Drayton badly beat and raped Lenker. After being hit several times on the head and body by heavy rocks, Caecile tried to escape by jumping in the river. Drayton continued to throw rocks at her as she desperately screamed for help. He then went out into the water and pushed the struggling girl under. A witness said that it appeared that she had died because her body quit thrashing, went limp and disappeared under the river's surface, but she reemerged and again started screaming for help.

Drayton then held her under water until she drowned, then drug her lifeless body back to shore and robbed her of the multiple rings she was wearing.

Drayton was sentenced to LWOP in June of 1996 after the jury found him guilty of murder and robbery.

JLWOP Inmate Issach Ready

Ready was a member of the East Side gang and went to a party looking for rival gang members of the Shooting Diamond Boys gang. On October 1, 1994, he used a rifle to shoot and kill two males at the party, victims Manuel Hernandez and Jason Hatch. He was sentenced to LWOP on July 23, 1996 for the two murders.

JLWOP Inmate Raymond Muhammad Ward

Raymond Muhammad Ward was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole on July 21, 1995, for murdering a 19-year-old motorist at a busy Sacramento intersection for the victim's customized Oldsmobile with gold-colored wheels.

Judge Richard H. Gilmore told Ward "there was virtually nothing of redeeming value" in his short life, which was filled with more crime than the lives of other criminals twice his age. This is one of those cases where words fail to describe the callousness of the crime. To kill someone to get their wheels is beyond comprehension," Gilmore said.

Ward, who was prosecuted as an adult, was 17 on Oct. 14, 1993, when he walked up to a 1984 Oldsmobile at a red light shortly after 11 a.m. Arthur Gonzalez was waiting for the light to change on his way to work at an automotive shop. Numerous witnesses saw Ward walk up to Gonzalez, shoot him in the head, and then dump his body in the busy intersection as he drove off.

JLWOP Inmate Deondre Terrell Hudson

Deondre Terrell Hudson was sixteen when he murdered his girlfriend, 18-year-old Quinnisha R. Thomas and her unborn fetus on Jan. 13, 2003.

The Sacramento Bee reported that Sacramento Superior Court Judge James L. Long, called the killing "coldblooded," and sentenced Hudson to life without possibility of parole on June 22, 2004. Hudson was convicted on two charges of murder of using a gun to kill Thomas, who was eight months pregnant with his daughter. He shot her execution-style as she walked through an opening in a fence behind a grocery store.

JLWOP Inmates Reginald Bunn and Antonio Minor

Bunn and Minor lured victim Gamaliel Torres to a park on a pretense of buying marijuana from him. When the victim arrived, they approached his vehicle and shot him before he even turned off his car engine or unhooked his seat belt, then reached in and stole \$900.00 worth of marijuana, his cell phone, and a necklace he was wearing. Bunn used the .357 pistol and Minor used the shotgun to kill nineteen-year-old victim Gamaliel Torres.

Bunn and Minor were sentenced to LWOP for the murder plus a 25 year to life sentence for the enhancement of personal use of firearm and the robbery. Although both defendants at trial tried to blame each other or other co-defendants, each were found with weapons at their feet, the victim's blood on themselves and their clothes, and gun residue tests were positive for each of them.

JLWOP Inmate Daniel Perez

Perez was an active gang member when he robbed and shot Clifford Owens twice in the head on April 26, 2005. Victim Owens was a marijuana dealer who resisted being robbed of marijuana by Perez, and was fatally shot in the drug heist. On Perez was sentenced to LWOP plus 25 years to life. There were 3 other co-defendants, but Perez was the actual shooter.

JLWOP Inmate Miguel Soto Enriquez, Jr

Miguel Soto Enriquez, Jr was a sixteen-year-old member of the Oak Park Bloods gang when he shot two young men. This gang shooting occurred on June 11, 2006 at a busy shopping plaza in downtown Sacramento during daylight hours, and was directed at young people who were hanging out at the downtown plaza but were not gang members. The murder victim was visiting from Chicago, and was shopping and hanging out with his friends when SotoEnriquez and his fellow gang members approached them. There were challenges to fight which escalated when SotoEnriquez pulled out a gun and began firing, killing Erick Young and seriously wounding Malcolm Brewer.

After the shooting, he fled to his native country of Guatemala where he was arrested April 12, 2007 by Interpol and Guatemalan police officers, and subsequently returned to California to stand trial. On May 30, 2008, SotoEnriquez was sentenced to LWOP plus 50 years to life for the murder of Erick Young Jr., the attempted murder of Malcolm Brewer. and for inflicting great bodily injury on Brewer. The jury found true the special circumstance charge that the crime was committed for the benefit of a street gang.

JLWOP Inmate Daniel Zhuk

Zhuk, a seventeen-year-old Russian immigrant, was convicted of the January 20, 2000 murder of 25-year-old Cindy Chung during an attempted carjacking and robbery, and of the attempted murder of her father Han Chung. During the investigation of Cindy Chung's murder, the investigators discovered that the defendant had also committed two other separate attempted carjackings of victims Ingrid Wolbet and Karen Wood. Zhuk was also convicted of those two attempted carjackings and robberies and of assault with a firearm in each incident.

Evidence disclosed that Zhuk was targeting drivers of BMW and Mercedes vehicles to sell them to a Russian gang who would buy the luxury cars for \$4,000.00. Zhuk was also involved in the staging of auto accidents so that passengers could get injured and put in insurance claims for the injuries in these staged collisions.

Although Zhuk did not himself shoot Cindy, the Court sentenced him to LWOP under the felony murder rule because the judge found him to be the dominant person in the planning of the crimes, found that he provided the weapon and bullets used, and told his co-defendant to carry out the crimes.

JLWOP Inmate Johnny Mack Cotton

A jury found defendant Johnny Mack Cotton guilty of the April 22, 2006 murder of Byron Walker. The trial court sentenced defendant to life without the possibility of parole plus 25 years for the murder, personal use of a firearm enhancement, and attempted robbery. The defendant approached the victim, told the victim to give him his money, and when the victim put his hands up, Cotton shot him. The killing occurred near a light rail stop in Sacramento and was captured on video.

JLWOP Inmate Thomas Hernandez

Thomas Hernandez and two co-defendants who were fellow gang members killed James Daniel Melendez Jr. on February 21, 1999. The victim was not a gang member, but was shot as he was leaving a party, simply because he was on a street wearing a red shirt, the gang color of the teen killer's rival gang. Shortly thereafter, the teen killers pulled next to a car being occupied by four young men, two of whom had their hair tied in a pony tail which the teen killers associated with their rival gang. As the driver responded to them asking for traffic directions, Hernandez opened fire, shooting and seriously wounding two of the occupants. Hernandez was also convicted of the attempted murder of victims Carlos Romero, Michael Ortiz, David Cross, and Phillip Moore.

JLWOP Inmate Jimmy Siackasorn

Jimmy Siackasorn was convicted of first-degree murder of Sacramento County Sheriff Deputy Vu Nguyen. A jury also found two special circumstances true — namely, that Siackasorn intended to kill a peace officer in the performance of his duty, and that he intended to use a gun. Siackasorn was sentenced to LWOP plus 25 years on June 18, 2010. He had been arrested 26 times since the age of 12.

Siackasorn was 16 when he shot Deputy Nguyen in the neck after Nguyen and his gang task force partner made a routine check in a gang-neighborhood. His partner found him lying mortally wounded on top of a chicken coop after a foot chase which commenced when Siackasorn ran and jumped over a fence after seeing the deputies. Nguyen followed him over the fence, and his partner found Nguyen in the back yard of a home, with a gunshot wound to the neck.

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Cheryl Chun Meegan said Siackasorn “rejected all of the interventions” of the local juvenile justice system that had housed him for 863 days in the five years before he shot and killed Deputy Vu Nguyen on Dec. 19, 2007.

Meegan said Siackasorn repeatedly expressed his “utter disdain, his animosity, his hatred toward any authority figure.” She said he “ambushed” Nguyen, “executed” him in the fence-hopping chase that ended on top of a chicken coop in a rough Southside neighborhood, where he finally got his chance to fulfill years of threats he'd been making about wanting to kill a cop. “It's also my observation that as an additional affront and insult to all of us, the defendant has shown no remorse,” the judge said. “I do not know what is in his heart, but I know what I have seen ... He is proud of what he's done. He has bragged and he has gloated.”

SAN BERNADINO COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Jamal Rhone

On November 2, 2007, Jamal Rhone was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for murdering 89-year-old Fidencio Guzman at an Ontario park on Oct. 28, 2004.

The elderly victim had taken a rest break from his daily walk to lie down in the park when three teenage gang members attempted to rob the victim and shot him twice. Jamal Tyron Rhone, Fredrick Melvin Stewart and Trayvon Andrew Patterson were all members of the Watts-based Bounty Hunter Bloods gang. Mr. Guzman did not speak English and had no money to give the robbers. Rhone fired a handgun, striking Guzman twice and the victim died shortly after

he was attacked. According to witnesses after the shooting of the defenseless old man, the assailants ran from the scene, exchanging high-fives and congratulatory slaps on the backs.

The three defendants admitted in police interviews that they had robbed other victims in the same park in two separate incidents months prior to the murder of Fidencio Guzman.

JLWOP Inmate Tyson Atlas

Tyson Atlas was convicted of the April 22, 2006 murder of Gregory Smith. Smith, 17, was shot to death in Rialto as he was walking in the area of Winchester Street and Cactus Ave. On January 23, 2008 Atlas was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the special circumstance murder of Smith.

Atlas was also charged with assault with a firearm from a shooting incident at a crowded party at the Victoria Gardens Cultural Center on March 9, 2007. Witnesses said Atlas and Brandon Moore arrived at the dance and started “gang banging.” When organizers asked them to leave, both men pulled out gun. Moore fired twice into the air, causing hundreds of party goers to stampede the exits. An attendee at the party recognized Atlas and Moore from a separate shooting on Feb. 16th in Fontana. Moore and Atlas tried to kill a man who had been dating Atlas’ girlfriend. When Atlas saw his girlfriend in the man’s car, he struck the man in the face and told Moore to shoot him. Moore fired two shots in the car and struck the man in the leg.

JLWOP Inmate Christopher Turelle White

Christopher Turtle White was convicted of robbing and killing Cue Vie Liquor Store owner Steven Hall and clerk Brian Gregorio on March 16, 2005. The double murder was caught on store surveillance video which was a powerful piece of evidence during the 2009 trial. On March 16, 2005, White and Darnell Allan, both wearing masks, entered the store and robbed the owner and clerk of cash and lottery tickets. After Allan fled the store with the items, White shot the two victims in the head as they stood with their hands in the air. Separate juries heard the case against co-defendants Darwin Lamont Richardson, and Tristan Darnell Allan. Tristan Darnell Allan and Darwin Lamont Richardson, the getaway driver, were also sentenced to two consecutive sentences of life without parole.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

JLWOP Inmates Penifoti Taeotui and Meki Gaono

On January 12, 2009, an Oceanside gang member Penifoti Taeotui was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the first-degree murder of Oceanside Police Officer Dan Bessant in the performance of his duties. Jurors also convicted Taeotui of two counts of assault with a deadly weapon. Judge Maino ordered Taeotui to serve an additional 56 years for his conviction of assault with a deadly weapon for shooting at Officer Pina and a civilian “ride-along” passenger.

Officer Bessant, age 25 had stopped to assist Officer Karina Pina with a traffic stop on Dec. 20, 2006. Taeotui fired at the officers with a .22-caliber revolver, missing Officers Bessant and Pina and a civilian who was riding with Pina on a ride along. Defendant Meki Gaono, who was tried in a separate trial and found guilty of the murder of Officer Bessant, used a .22-caliber rifle equipped with a scope in a sniper attack that fatally wounded Officer Bessant. The shots were fired from the front of a gang residence more than a football-field’s length away. Taeotui and Gaono had been drinking and horse playing with guns

when they saw the police officers at a traffic stop down the street and decided to open fire on the unsuspecting officers. On June 4, 2009 Gaono was also sentenced to life without possibility of parole plus an additional sixty-one years for the other crimes and enhancements.

Steve Bessant had been Gaono's principal and had tried to mentor his son's killer. As he did at the Taotuti sentencing, Officer Bessant's father publically forgave Gaono for murdering his son but asked the court to give the maximum sentence to Gaono.

JLWOP Inmate Desmond Payton

On July 28, 1993 Desmond Payton was sentenced to the maximum sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole for the May 4, 1992 murder of three victims with findings that Payton committed multiple murders and that he was lying in wait during the attack. Payton had been to the Kearney Valley Holiday Inn motel room only hours before the shooting, and returned after his girlfriend told him two males had been flirting with her.

Payton fatally shot Moses Gadson and Derrick Robinson, both 19, and Jennifer Lucas, 18, who was sitting with the two men, in an execution style killing.

JLWOP Inmate Khary Watson

Khary Watson, 33, was convicted in November of 2009 for the 1994 murder of victim Patricia Lopez during a robbery. Lopez was walking home from a store with a friend Barbara Nickerson when they were confronted by robbers, and Lopez was shot when she tried to run from them. Watson, wearing a black bandana on his face, came up behind Nickerson and stuck a gun in her back. He ordered her to drop her fanny pack to the ground, and when she did, Lopez took off running. Watson caught Lopez on a nearby lawn and shot her once in the back, striking her heart. The women had 96 cents between them. On December 19, 2009, Watson was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the murder he committed when he was seventeen.

Kamoa Green, now 38, was the female getaway driver in the street robbery in which Patricia Lopez was killed. Green was convicted on May 27, 2010 for her participation in the first-degree murder.

In 2006, a man told police about a woman involved in the shooting death of a Hispanic woman 12 years earlier, and a gun was traced back to Kamoa Greene. Co-defendant Tyrone Katrelyn Lynch, 34, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and will receive nine to 15 years in prison in exchange for his testimony against Watson. Greene had a similar deal to plea to voluntary manslaughter, but her agreement was withdrawn when she refused to testify against Watson at his trial.

JLWOP Inmate Doen Naeem Haygood

On December 7, 1999 Doen Haygood murdered Kevin Ivey by shooting him numerous times. Afterwards, he told several people, including fellow students at his school, that he had shot someone in the park. On December 10, 1999, a school police officer received information that Haygood was involved in killing Ivey and that he had a gun. When Haygood was searched, he had a loaded 9-millimeter pistol in his jacket pocket and 18 rounds of ammunition in his backpack.

When he was interviewed by police, he told them that two years earlier he and Ivey played basketball. He said that Ivey was larger than he was and rough and that Ivey had kicked his bag and flashed mean looks at him. When Haygood saw the victim in the park the night of

the shooting, he remembered the earlier incident and thought “here is my chance.” Ivey did not recognize Haygood, and he asked the victim if he had “weed.” After walking with the victim to a darker part of the park, he pulled his gun and shot Ivey. Haygood emptied the pistol into Ivey’s body. Ivey suffered six bullet wounds in the right side of his head, two bullet wounds in his torso and one in his leg.

Prior to killing Ivey, Haygood had been on a crime spree since March of 1999, during which he committed a series of robberies and carjackings. In his police interview, he confessed to the additional crimes.

On March 5, 1999, Maria Toczykowski was in Emerald Hills Park with her children and boyfriend and was carjacked by armed robbers. One of the men pointed a gun with a laser at the victim’s head, Haygood admitted to participating in the Toczykowski carjacking.

On May 11, 1999, Nazar Patrus was working as a cashier at a gas station on Euclid Avenue. A man with a gun entered the station and demanded money. Haygood confessed he was the armed robber. On August 14, 1999 Abdullah Khawana was at the same gas station where Patrus was robbed in May. A man wearing a bandana and carrying a gun came out and demanded money from him. He struck the victim in the ear with the gun. Haygood admitted committing the attempted robbery. Zoltan Bodo was making a rental car return on May 22, 1999 when five men, one with a gun, approached him and carjacked him. Haygood confessed to being the carjacker with the gun.

Haygood confessed to robbing Benito Cortez on May 23, 1999, wearing a bandana over his face and carrying a gun. He confessed to committing an armed robbery on May 24, 1999 of a restaurant on Mission Gorge Road. He confessed to being the masked man carrying a gun who robbed the clerk at a gas station on Skyline Drive on August 21, 1999. He confessed that on November 20, 1999, he was the masked man who entered a restaurant on University Avenue and robbed the manager. He confessed that on December 1, 1999 he entered a restaurant on Waring Road, pointed a gun at the manager, and took money and left. Haygood confessed to robbing Marcus Camper who was working at a gas station on India Street in an armed robbery that netted approximately \$ 300.00 that was committed on December 7, 1999, an hour before he murdered victim Ivey.

In a 2003 appellate decision, the Court ruled the case should be remanded for resentencing because the lower court, in sentencing Haygood to a term of life without the possibility of parole as the result of his conviction of special circumstance murder was unaware it had the discretion to sentence him to a term of 25 years to life. In all other respects the judgment was affirmed. On remand, Haygood was again sentenced to life without possibility of parole.

JLWOP Inmate Jarred Viktor

On September 23, 1995 Viktor and his fifteen year-old girlfriend Danielle Barcheers went to his grandmother’s home where the two teen killers robbed and stabbed Viktor’s grandmother Elizabeth “Betty” Carroll 61 times. Various items, including her car, were stolen from the victim.

Both defendants were convicted of first degree murder in separate trials; Victor received a life without possibility of parole sentence on October 1, 1997. Barcheers who was fifteen at the time was sentenced to 25 years to life.

Barcheers was convicted of first-degree murder as an adult in 1997 but an appeals court overruled the verdict in 1999, saying her first lawyer erred by not presenting a mental-health

defense, and ordered a new trial. Danielle Barcheers was the youngest girl in California to be charged as an adult for her role in the murderous rampage.

At her second trial, Barcheers was again convicted of first-degree murder. A state appeals court upheld the second conviction, and the state Supreme Court declined to review the case. Barcheers' attorney then filed a petition in February 2003 in federal court, asking for a writ of habeas corpus to order a third trial. That request was denied on Aug. 7, 2003, prompting the federal appeal. The federal appeals court agreed with the lower federal court's decision not to order a new trial for Barcheers. She continues to serve 25 years to life in prison for Carroll's murder. Another teenager charged in the case was acquitted of murder, but was convicted of less serious charges for taking items from Carroll's home the night she was slain. He was paroled in October 1999.

JLWOP Inmates Robert Lamar Myers and Edward Thomas

Robert Myers, a documented gang member, was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder, three counts of premeditated attempted murder and two counts of shooting into an occupied vehicle, along with gang and gun allegations stemming from three 2004 drive-by shootings by Lincoln Park gang members that occurred within a 22-hour period, leaving two people dead and three others wounded. On October 30, 2008, Myers was sentenced to two consecutive life without possibility of parole terms, plus other life terms.

The shootings were a continuation of a violent rivalry between two black gangs largely based in Lincoln Park and Skyline. The defendants told investigators they were on a mission to kill rival gang members.

The first shooting occurred around 11:35 p.m. on Aug. 13, 2004, when a person leaned out of a white Ford Expedition in Skyline and fired multiple shots at a group of people, striking one of them in the ankle. Witness told police that the shooter was wearing a hat that flew off and was recovered by investigators. DNA found on the hat matched Myers.

About an hour later the occupants of a white Ford Expedition followed- a Ford Mustang and a BMW after the vehicles had left a bar. The driver of the Mustang was shot in the arm, while the BMW driver 22-year-old Richard Wilson, was fatally shot in the head. A passenger in the BMW was shot in the back, but survived. The next evening 15 shots were fired from a white Ford Expedition at a group of four people sitting at a bus stop and killing 16-year-old Lee Smith Jr. Neither Richard Wilson nor Lee Smith was a gang member.

When the shootings took place four years ago, Dejon Satterwhite was 15, Edward Thomas and Myers were both 17 and Harris was 18. Thomas was identified as the driver in the shootings. Satterwhite was a passenger.

Thomas was convicted of first-degree murder, attempted premeditated murder and shooting at an occupied vehicle, and was sentenced to two terms of life in prison without parole, plus 96 to life, plus 40 years. Thomas' half brother, Satterwhite, was convicted of the same charges and sentenced to 196 years to life. Ivory Harris was convicted of first-degree murder and allegations that the crime was committed for the benefit of a street gang and that he personally used a firearm in the attack. He was sentenced to fifty years to life for his role in the murder of Lee Smith Jr.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Rattanak Kak

On January 9, 2006 Kak was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the murder of a man walking with his girlfriend in American Legion Park in October 10, 2003. His sentence also included more than 200 years to life in prison for other crimes, and was one of the most severe ever handed to a San Joaquin County gang member according to prosecutors.

Kak's co-defendant Mao Hin was sentenced to death for his part in the Oct. 10, 2003, murder of Alfonso Martinez, age 20 and the shooting of Debra Pizano, then 16. Kak and Hin are members of the Southeast Asian Tiny Rascals gang. Evidence at trial showed Kak fired the shots when Hin ordered Kak to commit the robbery and the shooting.

A month before the killing of Martinez and the attempted murder of Pizano, Kak was involved in a drive-by shooting in which Bounthavy Onethavong died after being shot twice in the head and Judy Onesavanh and Sophal Ouch were shot and seriously injured. Although the three victims were not gang members themselves, Judy was driving her father's car. Judy's brother George frequently drove that vehicle and he was a member of the Asian Boys, a rival gang. A blue Honda pulled up beside the victims' car, and a barrage of gunfire rang out, hitting all three occupants.

Kak and Hin continued their two month reign of terror where their gang ran wild shooting up the streets of Stockton, ending on November 8, 2003 on Bedlow Drive with Kak and Hin spraying five people with gunfire from their van.

JLWOP Inmates Jimmy Benson and David Lewis

Benson and Lewis, both members of the Crips gang, were convicted of the September 25, 2004 murder of Eric Castillo and three counts of attempted murder of three other victims. Benson, Lewis, and two adult Crips gang members were staking out their claim to a new neighborhood when the shootings occurred. Lewis fired the fatal shot that killed Eric Castillo, and Benson fired his gun during the melee.

Fifteen-year-old Eric Castillo was killed at a friend's home where he was attending a chaperoned birthday party. Chaperones, fearing trouble, tried to end the party when they saw gang members among the crowd of teenagers. Shots then rang out, killing Eric Castillo, and wounding three others.

Jimmie Benson, Jessie Zamora, Andrew Thompson, and David Lewis were each charged with murder and the special circumstances of having gang affiliations and using a firearm with the intent to cause great bodily injury. Each was also charged with three counts of attempted murder of the three victims injured by gunfire.

On February 26, 2007 David Lewis was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the murder of Eric Castillo and 142 years and four months for the other charges and enhancements. On March 19, 2007 Jimmy Lee Benson was ordered to serve 142 years and four months to life in prison, plus life without the possibility of parole for his role in the gunfire that resulted in the death of Castillo and the wounding of three others. Although Benson did not fire the shots that killed Eric Castillo and injured three others he received the life sentence under a law that forbids encouraging other gang members.

JLWOP Inmate Jose Rodriguez Cardenas

Jose Rodriguez Cardenas, was convicted of the murder of a nineteen-year-old Stockton man, Francisco Montejó Diaz. Diaz was gunned down around 4:30 p.m. Dec. 9 , 2007 and died a few hours later. The murder occurred 3 months before Cardenas was eighteen. Cardenas' co-defendant was 18-year-old Ramon Enrique Mendez. Cardenas was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the murder which was found to have been committed in furtherance of gang activity.

SAN MATEO COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Raul Campos

Raul Campos was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder in the execution-style slayings of four men during a drug dispute. Campos was sentenced by Superior Court Judge Stephen Hall to life in prison without the possibility of parole for his role in the 2002 slayings of four men at the Evergreen Ridge apartment complex in San Bruno.

Javier Vaca, 21, Jose Alberto Munoz-Lopez, 21, Emilio Alba-Flores, 20, and Roberto Ramos-Guerra, 18 were bound and shot on January 11, 2002. Campos shot at least three of the men. . The men had been shot "execution-style" in the back of the head and fourteen kilos of cocaine were found near the bodies.

A second defendant, Alfredo Valenzuela, 24 was found guilty of four counts of murder. A third suspect reportedly was killed in a gunfight last year in Mexico, while authorities believe a fourth suspect is in Mexico.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Savin Sam

On October 26, 2003 Savin Sam; Somanang Kim; and Bunreth Pech; murdered Lorena Carrasco and attempted to murder three others outside a San Jose home... Carrasco had walked out of her residence with her boyfriend when three men drove by in a white Honda Sedan, and shot all four victims, killing Carrasco. One of the victims, Francisco Guadarrama, was paralyzed from the waist down. None of the four victims had any association to a street gang. On November 29, 2003, the three gang members targeted a rival gang member. Sam shot Adam Noc Chhoeun while he was attending a party. . Chhoeun had recently switched gangs and the shooting occurred just across the street from where one of the murderers lived on San Jose's Galena Drive.

The third homicide happened just hours later, outside a party that was breaking up in the 1500 block of Galena Drive. Witnesses reported seeing an Asian man wearing a bandana jump onto the hood of a pickup truck and shoot 17-year-old Ervin Perry. Perry died from a gunshot wound to the head and also was found to have no gang affiliation.

This crime spree led to one of the most extensive investigations in San Jose history, resulting in indictments by a Santa Clara County criminal grand jury on three murder counts and 13 counts of attempted murder. All three men were arrested in December 2003 after witnesses to the crimes identified the suspects and lab tests matched bullet casings from the shootings to the same gun. On August 28, 2009, Sam was sentenced to life without possibility of parole.

SONOMA COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Salvador Jimenez Jr.

Jimenez, then seventeen, fatally stabbed 33-year-old Graciela Rivas when she confronted him burglarizing her family's Santa Rosa apartment on April 16, 2004 in a slaying witnessed by the victim's three-year-old son. Jimenez then fled to Santa Barbara where he was arrested in a motel after police tracked down three young women who were in the car Jimenez used to get to and from Graciela Rivas' home. He was arrested for the murder of Graciela Rivas and for outstanding warrants on kidnapping, weapons and false-imprisonment charges.

He was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole on January 24, 2006 for the murder of Graciela Rivas.

TULARE COUNTY

JLWOP Inmate Andres Contreras

On March 26, 2005, Contreras stole a car and used it to commit a drive-by shooting in Kern County. No one was injured in that incident. The following day he and another gang member Ezekiel Perez were driving in Earlimart in Tulare County and flashed gang signs at Pedro Flores and shot at him several times. Flores ran inside his home to an upstairs room, and when he and sister looked out the window, more shots were fired from the vehicle toward their window. Later the same day, Contreras and Perez followed two young men, Anthony Castro and Alejandro Salazar. Contreras shot them in a drive by shooting, killing Castro and seriously wounding Salazar.

Contreras was convicted of the March 27, 2005 murder of Anthony Castro and the attempted murder of Alejandro Salazar and Pedro Flores, and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole on November 22, 2006.

JLWOP Inmates La Vang See and Chawa See

On October 1, 2006 five Oriental Troop gang members killed rival gang member Robert Trevino. Robert lived in Oriental Troop turf and was outside playing football. When the five Oriental Troop gang members made contact with Robert, one of them distracted him by shaking his hand and pointing behind him while the others stood close by. All five of the Oriental Troop gang members had their faces covered with bandannas or doo-rags. From a distance of less than three feet, Chawa See fatally shot Robert Trevino in the side of the head.

The Oriental Troops gang members were arrested several weeks after the killing, but in December escaped from custody while at the Visalia courthouse, but were recaptured the same day. The defendants were found guilty of the first degree murder of Robert Trevino and conspiracy to commit murder, along with the gun and gang special allegation

On May 20, 2008, Judge James Hollman sentenced Chawa See and Lavang See to life without the possibility of parole plus an additional and consecutive 25 years to life. Judge Hollman sentenced Aitang See to 50 years to life because he was 15 years old at the time of the crime.

JLWOP Inmate David Garcia

On May 19, 2006 Northern Gang member David Garcia, accompanied by fellow gang members, drove past a house where rival gang members of the Southern Gang resided. The two gangs exchanged insults and Southern members threw bottles at their car. Garcia and his friends then threw rocks at the other group.

Garcia then met another gang member, Vincent Gardenas, and Garcia obtained from him a 12-gauge loaded shotgun. Garcia and his fellow gang members drove back to the rival residence with Vincent Cardenas and his girlfriend following in another car. As soon as they got there, the Northern Gang members jumped out charging the other group who ran into the garage and shut the door. Garcia's friend Fernando tried to open the door and as he attempted to open it, Garcia fired and the bullet went through the garage and into the house narrowly missing a baby. As they were leaving Garcia turned and fired the shotgun again, hitting and killing his friend and fellow gang member Fernando Barrera

On October 10, 2007 David Garcia was convicted and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for the murder of Fernando Barrera and three counts of attempted murder of victims Roberto Martinez, Isidrio Martinez, and Manuel Chavez

JLWOP Inmates Marcos Chavez and Jaime Guzman

Marcos Chavez and Jaime Guzman and co-defendant Alejandro Prado were convicted of the murder of Marlene Romero and four counts of attempted murder of juvenile victims Ray P., Shalisa H., Celeste M. and Joseph A.

The jury found true the allegations that the murder was intentional and was perpetrated by discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle with the intent to inflict death. Marcos Chavez was the driver of the car used in the drive by and Guzman and Prado were the actual shooters. Earlier that same evening, at approximately 8:00 p.m., Joseph A., a high school student, was driving his father's brand new black, four-door 1997 Dodge Neon. Celeste M., Ray P. and Shalisa H. were also in the car.

As they were driving on Olive Street, a metallic beige, four-door Honda Civic pulled up on the driver's side. There were five people in the Honda Civic, two in the front and three in back. Shalisa started talking to "Big Alex" who was in the rear right seat. Hostile words were exchanged between Shalisa and Big Alex whom had been in a dating relationship. Chavez was also in the Honda Civic, either driving or sitting in the front passenger seat. At this time, Prado was not in the car.

Later that same evening the Honda Civic pulled up beside Joseph's Neon who was then occupied by the same passengers with an additional female passenger, Marlene Romero. The Honda Civic pulled up beside Joseph in the left lane. Joseph saw three people in the Honda Civic. A dark car driven by Big Alex pulled up directly behind Joseph. Celeste could not see who was driving the Honda Civic, but saw Prado in the front seat and Guzman behind Prado. Shalisa also saw Prado was in the front passenger seat. There was no conversation between the vehicles.

Seconds after the cars pulled up close to his car, Joseph heard shots being fired. Joseph looked back and saw that the shots were coming from the Honda Civic. Joseph saw flashes from guns from two separate places in the Honda Civic, the front passenger area and the rear right passenger area. Ray also saw flashes coming from the front and rear passenger section of the darker car. He saw a gun coming out of the front passenger window, and a flash from the gun. Romero, Ray and Shaliza were all shot, with Marlene Romero's wounds being fatal.

Both Marcos Chavez and Jaime Guzman were sentenced to life without possibility of parole for the murder of Marlene Romero and additional consecutive terms for the four attempted murders, all crimes committed when they were 16 and 17-years-old.

JLWOP Inmate Angel Carroscó

Angel Carroscó and his co-defendant Renee Zamora were convicted of first degree murder with the special circumstance of lying in wait, committing a drive by shooting, and committing a gang shooting to further gang activities. Both defendants received life without possibility of parole sentences on December 17, 2009.

On March 18, 2008 victim Vincent Chapman, who had no gang affiliations, was with friends in Visalia when Carroscó and Zamora started chasing them as they were walking. Chapman and his friends tried to run home, but Chapman couldn't keep up with his friends. He hid in a field and then tried to get home, but the defendants pulled up beside him and shot him twice, once in the heart. The police were able to stop the van the defendants were driving before they left town, and arrested both defendants

VENTURA COUNTY

JLWOP Inmates Monica Diaz and Michael Naranjo

In July 2000, 16-year-old defendant and her 17-year-old half sister, Laura Renta, lived in Pico Rivera with defendant's aunt and uncle, Richard and Sylvia Flores, and their four children, 18-year-old Esperanza, 17-year-old Richard Jr., 14-year-old Sylvia Jr., and 10-year-old Matthew. Defendant's and Laura's mother had died when defendant was three years old. After a period of living with other relatives, defendant and Laura had come to live with Mr. and Mrs. Flores, where they were considered part of the family. Defendant followed house rules, did her chores, and helped her cousins with their homework.

Defendant met Michael Naranjo in high school. By March 1999, they were girlfriend and boyfriend, and Naranjo was a frequent guest at the Flores house. In a letter to Naranjo dated March 9, 1999, defendant talked admiringly about murderers. She stated that '[t]he best job is to kill people professionally' and that books about serial killers were her favorites because she could learn from the mistakes of others. In an April 1999 letter, defendant told Naranjo that she thought the Colorado school shootings 'kicked ass' and that the 'Trenchcoat Mafia' was 'cool.' And in another letter written in April, defendant told Naranjo that when there was a minimum school day, the two 'should do something that day. Not your average day though. Go, kill a few people, break some windows and stuff like that. You get the picture right? Maybe I should add some more details to it. I just have to do something really crazy and really soon. Cause if I don't, I might hurt the people I care about the most.'

In the early morning hours of July 21, 2000, the members of the Flores household (except for defendant) were asleep in bed. Mrs. Flores awoke to find an intruder struggling with her husband. She realized that she was bleeding and kicked the intruder, who fell down and fled. Esperanza was awakened by the noise, got up to investigate, and saw someone go out the back door. She went into her parents' bedroom, where her father told her that he had been stabbed; he fell to the floor. Esperanza called 911. Sheriff's deputies and paramedics who arrived at the scene found Mr. Flores on the floor of the bedroom, dead of multiple stab wounds. Mrs. Flores also had multiple stab wounds, for which she was taken to the hospital. Richard Jr. and Matthew were found dead in the bedroom that they shared. Sylvia Jr. was found dead in the bedroom she

shared with defendant. All had died of multiple stab wounds. (Esperanza and Laura, who also shared a bedroom, were not harmed.)

Witnesses at the scene testified that defendant appeared calm and seemed unaffected in the aftermath of the murders. She kept to herself, playing with a toy bear while others mourned. Investigators found a 'butterfly' knife and a throwing knife in one of the bathrooms of the house. A flashlight with a red lens was found in the hallway. Near the gate to the side yard, other knives, an axe, and a roll of duct tape were found. Pieces of duct tape were also found at three locations inside the house and on the air conditioning unit outside. Forensic examination revealed defendant's fingerprints or palm prints on the knives found in the bathroom, the piece of duct tape on the air conditioning unit, and the roll of duct tape. All of the pieces of duct tape found by officers had been part of the same roll. Naranjo's prints were on one of the knives found in the bathroom and the flashlight.

Defendant and Naranjo were arrested on July 26, 2000. They were placed in the back seat of a police car by themselves and their conversation was tape-recorded. They professed their love for each other and discussed the possibility of continuing their relationship. members once he got inside. Naranjo had no particular reason for wanting to do this, although he had been thinking about killing people from the time he was 13 or 14 years old. (In March or April 1999, Naranjo wrote a letter to defendant in which he said that the one thing he wanted to 'do before [his] life ends, one thing is to kill a shit-load of people.') While he was attacking Mr. and Mrs. Flores in their bedroom, Mrs. Flores kicked him. Naranjo then went into the bathroom, where defendant was waiting, and handed some knives to her. She put them down and left the bathroom. Naranjo then fled. Naranjo was jointly charged with defendant. He entered a plea and was convicted of four counts of special circumstances murder and one count of attempted premeditated murder.

Both inmates are now serving four life sentences in the California Dept of Corrections.

JLWOP Inmate Edward Anthony Throop

On April 7, 1991, Throop and three other teen gang members, shot and killed Rolando Martinez, age 20 and Javier Ramirez, age 19 in a drive by shooting. Martinez and Ramirez were slain when Troop began shooting from the rear seat of a Pontiac Firebird into a crowd of people leaving a baptism.

One bullet struck Martinez in the chest and two hit Ramirez in the upper torso, killing both the young men. Bullets also injured Rudy Gutierrez, and Ilmer Maradiaga. None of the victims were gang members, but were described by investigators as being merely in the way. Investigators believed Throop, a member of the El Rio gang, fired at the baptismal crowd in retaliation for a recent altercation between his gang and youths living at Cabrillo Village, the neighborhood where the slayings occurred.

In 1993, a state appeals court refused to overturn Throop's sentence.

JLWOP Inmate Nathan Sessing

Nathan Sessing was 17 when he stabbed 61-year-old neighbor Larry Phifer in the neck six times, beat him with a baseball bat and stole a DVD player from his home on December. 2, 2004. He was convicted of first degree murder with special circumstances as the killing was committed during the course of a burglary. Sessing was sentenced to life without possibility of parole on August 30, 2006

At the time of his arrest for the murder of Larry Phifer, Sessing was in jail for committing another crime. He was under arrest for the stabbing of Brent Cook and attempted car theft. Cook was stabbed as Sessing attempted to steal a car that belonged to a friend of Cook's.

JLWOP Inmate Rudolfo Sandoval

Rudolfo Sandoval was a member of the Ventura Avenue Gangsters which had many rival gangs, but most particularly gangs from Montalvo. According to gang-experts, a Ventura Avenue Gang member would gain respect from the gang if he were to shoot a white male in Montalvo.

On May 4, 2004, Sandoval struck a man in the head with a shotgun, and then handed the shotgun to Acevedo, a fellow gang member, who shot up the victim's car. The following evening, Sandoval and Acevedo decided to cruise around Montalvo in Acevedo's car, and they were armed with Acevedo's 12-gauge Mossberg shotgun. At around 11:25 p.m., they spotted Ryan Briner, a 25-year-old white male walking toward his parents' home at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Sandoval and Acevedo exchanged words with Briner as they drove by him. They then made a U-turn and parked. Sandoval, who was armed with the shotgun and Acevedo approached Briner. Briner, fearing a fist fight, removed his shirt and wrapped it around his fist. When he was just a few feet from Briner, Sandoval fired the shotgun, hitting the victim in the chest. Briner was bleeding profusely and attempted to flee toward his home.

Sandoval then fired a second shot, striking Briner in the back. Many people, including Briner's mother, witnessed the second shooting and she ran to comfort her son as he lay bleeding to death in the street. Sandoval and Acevedo managed to avoid arrest for over six months, until Acevedo was stopped by police officers for a traffic offense. When the police searched the car incident to his arrest, they found shotgun ammunition, methamphetamine, a ski-mask, and the 12-gauge shotgun used to kill Briner.

Judge Edward Brodie sentenced Rudolfo Sandoval, a.k.a. "Menace," to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder of Ryan Jason Briner. The jury had also found true the special circumstance that the murder was an intentional killing by a street gang member; the special allegation that the defendant was a principal in the offense during which a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun was used; and the special circumstance that the crime was committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, and in association with the Ventura Avenue Gangsters street gang.

JLWOP Inmate Adam Sarabia

On September 22, 2004, Adam Sarabia was sentenced to life without possibility of parole for two counts of first degree murder, residential burglary, and auto theft.

Saying the "level of violence was just mind-boggling," a Ventura County judge convicted Adam Sarabia of fatally beating and slashing John Ramirez and Joann Wotkyn in October of 2002 as they slept in their bed. Sixteen-year-old Sarabia then stole their car and cell phone.

Sarabia had waived his right to a trial by jury, and opted for a court trial. Judge Brodie in reading his verdict said "It's clearly a circumstantial-evidence case, but a stronger circumstantial-evidence case I have never seen." When the police arrested him, Sarabia's shirt had blood on the sleeves and a search of his house revealed a baseball bat and tennis shoes with the victims' blood on them. Sarabia was in possession of the victim's cell phone and phone records showed numerous calls being made from the phone to Sarabia's.

Witnesses testified that Sarabia entered the victims' home through an unlocked garage door and beat them with a baseball bat and stabbed them with two knives. Sarabia stole Wotkyns' phone and car, and left the vehicle in a parking lot after the anti-theft system activated.

The prosecutor called Sarabia remorseless and after the court rendered its decision stated he wished he could have sought the death penalty and characterized Sarabia as being a poster boy for the maximum penalty of life without possibility of parole.

JLWOP Inmate Samuel Puebla

A Ventura County jury convicted Samuel Puebla of first-degree murder and attempted rape in the New Year's Day 2003 slaying of college student Valerie Zavala. Although tried as an adult, he was not eligible for the death penalty because he was a juvenile at the time of the killing.

Puebla was a senior at Fillmore High School when he beat and strangled Zavala after the two left a New Year's Eve party in Fillmore. Zavala, 19, who was a sophomore at San Jose State University, had volunteered to drive Puebla and a girlfriend home after the party in the girlfriend's car. After dropping off the girlfriend, Zavala disappeared. Both attorneys acknowledged in court that she was legally drunk and planning to go to her boyfriend's house after dropping off Puebla. Her partially clothed body was found the next day, stuffed in a concrete drainage pipe under South Mountain Road between Santa Paula and Fillmore. Her death was caused by suffocation, and she had been struck in the head with a heavy object.

Zavala had been a cheerleader at Fillmore High School, where she graduated with honors. She was preparing for a career as an elementary schoolteacher and had served as the fundraising chairwoman for her sorority.

"She was a lovely, vivacious girl who really did nothing risky or out of the ordinary," Senior Deputy Dist. Atty. Maeve Fox said after the verdict. "For both families, this has been incredibly tragic. Hopefully, this will bring a measure of closure."

Puebla, a Fillmore High School senior at the time of the slaying, was been charged with murdering Zavala after the two left a New Year's Eve party in Fillmore the night of Dec. 31, 2002. He also was been charged with attempted rape.

On May 4, 2005, Samuel Puebla was sentenced to life without possibility of parole.