



**COUNTY OF YOLO**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
**JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

301 SECOND STREET - WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695 - 530.666.8180 - FAX 530.666.8185

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** August 17, 2009      **Contact:** Ann Hurd, Chief Deputy District Attorney  
**Phone:** (530) 666-8180

**Repeated DUI Offender Convicted of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter**

(Woodland, CA) – District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on Friday August 14<sup>th</sup> a Yolo County jury convicted 29 year old Esparto resident Jose Mendiola, of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter while Intoxicated as well as other similar charges. The jury acquitted the defendant of a murder charge based on the same facts. The case stemmed from a DUI accident on August 10, 2008 on State Route 16 just west of Woodland.

In that accident Fabian Perez was the front seat passenger. Mr. Perez was fatally injured when, according to a witness, Mr. Mendiola fell asleep at the wheel of his vehicle and it then struck a tree. Mr. Perez leaves behind his family including a son. “It is unfortunate that Mr. Mendiola chose to drive while intoxicated that night costing Woodland resident Fabian Perez his life,” said Deputy District Attorney Clinton Parish, who prosecuted the case.

The jury heard evidence of Mr. Mendiola’s two prior DUI convictions. Both prior DUI convictions were in Yolo County. In 2002 Mr. Mendiola was convicted of a DUI where he crashed his vehicle and injured his passenger on the same stretch of State Route 16. In 2006 Mr. Mendiola was convicted of a DUI after a Woodland Police Officer observed him driving erratically on Main Street.

Sentencing for Mr. Mendiola is scheduled for September 13, 2009 at 9:00 am before the Honorable Judge Timothy L. Fall who heard the case. Because Mr. Mendiola has a prior DUI conviction causing injury, his sentence could be greater than 15 years to life. Before Mr. Mendiola is sentenced, the defense attorney, the District Attorney’s Office and Yolo County Probation will submit their recommendations to the court.

For more information, contact Ann Hurd at (530) 666-8180.

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