



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

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District Attorney's Office Receives High Tech Funding to Fight Identity Theft and Piracy

(Woodland, CA) Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that the California Attorney General's Office recently notified him that the Yolo County District Attorney's Office has been chosen to receive \$21,422 in funding to be used for high tech means to investigate and prosecute identity theft cases, particularly those where computers are involved.

This is the third year in a row that the Yolo County DA's Office has received a grant from the California Attorney General's Office. This years funding will be utilized in a similar manner to previous years funding. This specific funding has purchased computer forensic equipment and on-going training for the Yolo County DA's office.

The population of Yolo County is 199,066, 20% of which are over 65 years of age. In the last year our elder Abuse Unit handled 99 cases, many of which involved seniors who were the victims of identity theft. The most vulnerable segments of our population are the seniors and the university students. The students approach life with a very casual attitude and the seniors are a prime target for fraudulent activities because of their misplaced trust. UC Davis students and senior citizens make up a substantial segment of Yolo County's population. Our outreach presentations have reached well over 1,000 citizens and have dealt with issues pertaining to the ease with which an individual's identity can be compromised. We hope to expand our presentations to reach more of the young adults in the county, including college students.

In the past, all identity theft and intellectual property theft related computer and cell phone forensic requests were sent to the Sacramento High Tech Task Force for evaluation and processing. This process has been problematic and very slow due to a large case backlog and dwindling law enforcement resources. Since 2008 the Yolo County DA's Office has been able to accept computer evidence from all of the local Law Enforcement agencies in Yolo County. This evidence includes computers, cell phones and digital cameras. We now have the trained personnel and equipment to processes digital evidence for investigative and prosecution purposes on a wide variety of crimes including but not limited to: Identity Theft, Intellectual Property Theft, Homicide, Child pornography, Child Abuse and Drug Related crimes.

Chief Investigator Pete Martin manages the Digital Evidence Lab in the Yolo County DA's Office. Martin stated, "This Grant has given us the ability to keep up with the criminal element in our County that uses digital or computer related devices to send, store and hide evidence of their criminal activity."

District Attorney Jeff Reisig is a proponent of thorough crime investigation including the collection and processing of all evidence available. He stated, "During these times of reduced funding and services this grant has assisted our office in providing an improved service to our local Law Enforcement agencies and citizens."