

COUNTY OF YOLO OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 19, 2009 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney

Phone: (530) 666-8092

Rescue Man Convicted of Road Rage

(Woodland, CA) – Today, Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that a Yolo County jury convicted Sydney Raymond Wyckoff, 61, of Rescue, California of Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Reckless Driving Causing Injury. Wyckoff repeatedly slammed on his brakes, at high speed, in front of a succession of cars before causing a collision on Interstate 5 on August 24, 2006.

At least one witness described Mr. Wyckoff's afternoon driving as "insane." Wyckoff passed several southbound cars at approximately 90 to 95 miles per hour, weaving in and out of traffic. As he passed each car, Wyckoff would turn suddenly in front of the car, sometimes at distances estimated to be less than a foot, and slam on his brakes. The turning movements were so abrupt that one witness expressed surprise that the wheels did not come off of the car. All of the witnesses reported that there was nothing to justify the turning and "sustained" braking, which sometimes lasted several seconds. This activity continued until traffic entered the Yolo Causeway, where Wyckoff turned and braked in front of a female victim from Davis. According to the evidence, the Davis woman tried to avoid Wyckoff by braking herself, but lost control of her car which spun, crashing repeatedly into the wall of the Causeway. She reported being frightened about going over the edge of the Causeway, and said she could see the green fields below as she struck the low railing.

The Yolo County jury deliberated for just over one day before returning a verdict. "Mr. Wyckoff is fortunate that no lives were lost because of his road rage; he was one guardrail away from murder charges," commented prosecuting attorney Ryan J. Couzens. District Attorney Jeff Reisig added: "Cars can be lethal weapons. The intentional use of a car to assault another driver will be prosecuted by this office to ensure the safety of our roadways."

The sentencing date for Wyckoff has not yet been determined. Wyckoff could be sentenced to a maximum of four years in state prison.

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