



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

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Contact: Peter Martin, Chief Investigator
(530) 666-8420

District Attorney's Office Receives Nearly \$300,000 to Fight Child Pornography

(Woodland, CA) – **November 17, 2009** - Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that the United States Department of Justice has selected his office to receive funding from the Child Sexual Predator Program Grant. The Yolo County District Attorney's Office will receive \$290,180 in funding over a two year period. The grant will be used to pay for computer forensic equipment and fund a District Attorney Investigator. An existing DA Investigator will focus his efforts on computer and cell phone forensics and will spearhead a newly formed District Attorney Internet Crimes Against Children Unit.

Currently, there is no central point for the investigation, forensic examination, prosecution and statistical evaluation of child exploitation cases. Internet crimes against children (ICAC) are escalating and the need to form a comprehensive unit that will coordinate and oversee these crimes from detection to adjudication will greatly benefit the citizens of Yolo County. This Unit will also work to stem world-wide exploitation of children who are the victims in these horrific images and films. Funding from this grant will allow the Yolo County DA's Office to form a unit comprised of Digital Forensic Examiners, Prosecutors and a Crime Analyst. This new Internet Crimes Against Children Unit will assist local and federal law enforcement agencies in developing and investigating ICAC cases in Yolo County.

Larry Brown, former United States Attorney for the Eastern District, recommended the Yolo County District Attorney for this grant based on the office's dedicated efforts to fight internet crimes against children. The grant award was the result of the District Attorney's Office submitting a comprehensive plan for the investigation and prosecution of these cases. Numerous law enforcement agencies competed for the federal funding.

Chief Investigator Pete Martin will manage the new ICAC Unit and the Digital Evidence Lab in the Yolo County DA's Office. Martin stated, "This Grant, and the forming of our new ICAC Unit, will give us the ability to better protect children from predators using the internet and computers to prey on and exploit children."

District Attorney Jeff Reisig was particularly pleased with the award in light of the difficult financial situation faced by his department and Yolo County as a whole. He stated, "We can now do the important work to protect our children that local law enforcement agencies and the citizens of Yolo County expect and deserve. Some say child pornography is a victimless crime. Tell that to the seven year old girl who was forced to pose for photos which are then sent around the world-wide web to thousands and thousands of child predators. We now have the resources to focus our efforts on the source – those who make, distribute and receive these horrendous images."

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