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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 8, 2009 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Asst. Chief Deputy District Attorney
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Child Molester Convicted

(Woodland, CA) – District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on December 7, 2009, a Yolo County jury convicted Louis Charles Romano, 63, of West Sacramento, of forcible penetration with a foreign object and forcible oral copulation with a 15 year-old girl.

The crimes occurred on April 12, 2008, when Romano assaulted the 15 year-old daughter of a family friend. Shortly after the assault, the 15 year-old victim reported the sexual assault to her parents and then the police. A few days later, her 10 year-old sister disclosed to her mother that Romano had molested her too. The sisters also reported Romano showed them pornography of girls that appeared to be under the age of 18 before he molested them. The Sacramento Police Department and the West Sacramento Police Department investigated the case. The Yolo County District Attorney's Office charged Romano with committing sex crimes against the young girls and possessing child pornography.

The two young victims testified about the sexual assaults during trial. The girls' parents also testified at trial about the violation of trust Romano committed when he molested their daughters. The 15 year-old girl's testimony was corroborated by the presence of Romano's DNA that he left on her body and her underwear when he assaulted her. The jury was also presented with evidence of pornography Romano showed to the girls and pornography depicting girls that appeared under the age of 18.

The jury convicted Romano for sexually assaulting the 15 year-old victim, but was unable to reach a unanimous verdict regarding the sexual assaults committed against the 10 year-old victim. The jury found Romano not guilty of possessing child pornography.

The District Attorney's Office commended the efforts of the Sacramento Police Department, the West Sacramento Police Department, the Department of Justice Crime Lab in Sacramento, the Sacramento Valley Hi-Tech Crimes Task Force, and the University of California Davis Medical Center Child and Adolescent Resource and Evaluation Diagnostic and Treatment Center for their hard work in this case.

Romano faces a maximum sentence of 16 years in state prison. The Honorable David Rosenberg will make that decision in January 2010.

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