



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:** October 14, 2011      **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney  
**Phone:** 530 666-8092

**West Sacramento Woman Sentenced for Gross Vehicular Manslaughter  
78-year-old Donna McClure struck and killed the victim while driving in the Raley's parking lot**

(Woodland, CA) – October 14, 2011 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that today Yolo County Superior Court Judge Timothy Fall sentenced 78-year-old Donna Marie McClure of West Sacramento, to a year in county jail for Vehicular Manslaughter with Gross Negligence. He also sentenced her to five years felony probation and ordered her to pay over \$26,000 in restitution to the victim's family. On August 12, 2011 a Yolo County jury found McClure guilty after she struck and killed Jewell Mattos in the parking lot of a West Sacramento Raley's store on October 1, 2009.

According to witnesses and video surveillance, Ms. Mattos walked out of Raley's Market shortly after 10:00 a.m. and was halfway through the crosswalk when the defendant ran into her with her car. Ms. McClure failed to stop until Ms. Mattos was carried 20 to 30 feet. Ms. Mattos suffered serious injuries and died the following day at U.C. Davis Medical Center. The evidence showed that nothing had obstructed Ms. McClure's view and that she had more than adequate opportunity to brake before the crosswalk.

The prosecutor, Ryan Couzens, argued that Ms. McClure committed gross negligence because she had been repeatedly warned by her doctor and the Department of Motor vehicles that she could not safely drive because of lapses in consciousness, judgment and attention caused by chronic alcoholism. Ms. McClure admitted to police that she knew of the license suspension. There was also testimony that nothing prevented McClure's passenger from driving the car that day. When asked why she drove on that day, Ms. McClure told police that she had too much pride to ask her friends for rides.

Many friends and family of Ms. Mattos attended both the trial and sentencing hearing. "We are both thrilled and grateful by the outcome," commented Ms. Mattos' daughter, Pamela Mendelsohn. "We are thankful to the Yolo County DA's office," continued Mendelsohn. "Our victim advocate remained committed to our family through these last two years, and the prosecutor did a remarkable job of setting forth the facts and the truth to the jury to be sure justice was served."

As family members of Ms. Mattos read their statements to Judge Fall, the courtroom was filled with emotion. "Advocate Julia Hernandez and I have worked closely with this very special family for many years," stated prosecutor Ryan Couzens. "It was an honor to work with them and to help them get some sense of satisfaction that justice was served."

###