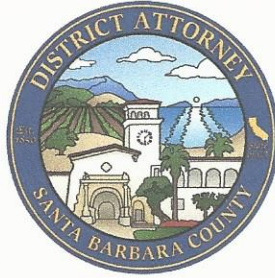


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 01-288

RELEASE NUMBER

January 26, 2015

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Von Nguyen, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT (805) 568-2311

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

January 26, 2015

Re: *People v. Brannon Lawrence Pitcher*

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today the guilty verdicts in the first Human Trafficking jury trial in Santa Barbara County. Defendant Brannon Lawrence Pitcher was found guilty, as charged, of two counts of human trafficking of a minor in violation of Penal Code section 236.1(c)(1), as well as the Special Allegation that defendant used force, fear, fraud, deceit, and violence while trafficking the minor victim in Count 1. Defendant was also found guilty of one misdemeanor count of possession of methamphetamine in violation of Health & Safety Code section 11377(a) and 73 counts of disobeying a court order in violation of Penal Code section 166(a).

According to DA Dudley, "Child sex trafficking is a silent but pervasive problem in all communities across our nation. The victims of human trafficking suffer long lasting psychological and physical violence at the hands of their traffickers. Today's successful jury verdict was a direct result of the hard work and compassion shown on the part of key members of the FBI and the Santa Barbara Police Department as well as the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's office led by Deputy DA Von Nguyen. The evidence that became public during this trial confirms the fact that human trafficking is occurring in the County of Santa Barbara. If you know anyone who may be a victim, please call 911."

□ SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2300
Fax: (805) 568-2398

□ SANTA MARIA OFFICE
312-D East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 346-7540
Fax: (805) 346-7588

□ LOMPOC OFFICE
115 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 737-7760
Fax: (805) 737-7732