

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



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RELEASE NUMBER

January 24, 2011

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Jerald McBeth, Senior Deputy District Attorney

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

January 24, 2011

Re: *People v. Yori Gabriel Contreras*; Case No. 1359763

On November 24, 2010, at approximately 0709 hours, Yori Gabriel Contreras was driving northbound on State Route 1, just south of Jalama Road. He drove his vehicle across the double yellow lines and ran head-on into a vehicle being driven by Charles E. Kline, a Lompoc resident who was commuting to work in Santa Barbara. Mr. Kline was killed in the collision and Mr. Contreras was severely injured.

The investigation conducted by the California Highway Patrol concluded that Mr. Contreras was returning to Lompoc after working a night shift in Santa Barbara. He failed to negotiate a curve, drove onto the wrong side of the roadway just as Mr. Kline approached southbound, and the impact of the collision caused fatal injuries to Mr. Kline.

The California Highway Patrol, in cooperation with the District Attorney's Office, has obtained an arrest warrant for Mr. Contreras for violation of Penal Code section 192c(2), Vehicular Manslaughter, Vehicle Code sections 12500a, Driving Without a License and 16028a, Driving Without Insurance.

After the arrest warrant was obtained, he either fled the area or has gone into hiding. Attached to this press release is a photograph of Mr. Contreras. The District Attorney's Office and the California Highway Patrol are asking for the public's help in obtaining information as to his whereabouts so he can be arrested on the outstanding warrant.

Mr. Kline is survived by his wife, Caroline, and two sons. Mr. Kline was a veteran of the United States Navy. He was working for Moseley Associates in Santa Barbara at the time of his death. Both of his sons have military service; Charles Kline, Jr., is currently serving in the United States Navy and the other son, Corey Kline, recently finished a tour of duty with the United States Army. The family is also requesting any help from the public to bring Mr. Contreras before the court.

It is believed Mr. Contreras may need ongoing medical care due to the severity of his injuries. He is a native of Mexico, but may still be residing in Santa Barbara County and is known to have relatives in the San Francisco Bay area.

The District Attorney and California Highway Patrol are requesting any information that will help lead to the arrest of Mr. Contreras.

Contact Sgt. Tom Mullen at the California Highway Patrol: (805) 688-5551

Contact Senior Deputy District Attorney Jerald McBeth at the District Attorney's Office: (805) 737-7760

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