Demystifying
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
A Quarterly Series

CARE
Community Awareness, Response, & Engagement

We will begin our presentation shortly.

Accessibility / Closed Captioning

- Find the menu bar at the bottom of your zoom window
- For closed captioning, select “more” and select CC Captions

Agenda

I. Welcome

- Tong Thao, Community Outreach Manager

II. Introduction

- Jamal Anderson, Special Assistant Attorney General

III. Presentation on the Division of Law Enforcement (DLE)

- Reye Diaz, Assistant Chief, Division of Law Enforcement
- Barry Miller, Director, Bureau of Forensic Services
- Allison Mendoza, Director, Bureau of Firearms
- Brian Rose, Director, Bureau of Investigation

IV. Questions & Answers

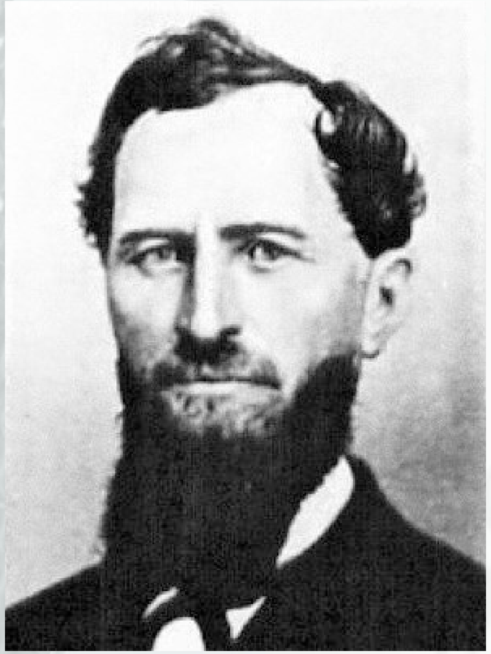
V. Thank You & Survey

Division of Law Enforcement

Assistant Chief Reye Diaz

Office of the Attorney General

- First Attorney General - 1850 – Edward J.C. Kewen

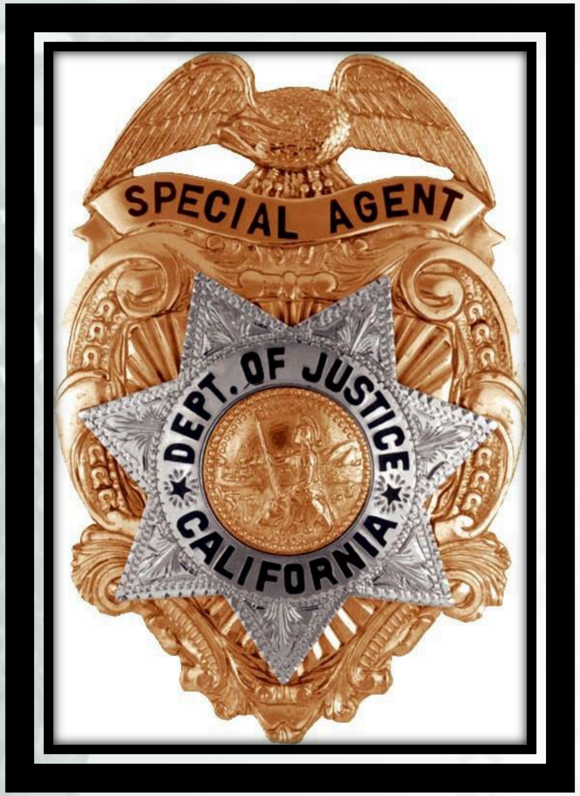


- 34th Attorney General – Rob Bonta

While the California Office of the Attorney General was created in 1850, the law enforcement and criminal investigative capabilities were not fully established until the early 20th century. However, the mission of CA DOJ Special Agents mirrors the statewide authority of the original California Rangers, the first statewide criminal investigative and law enforcement agency created on May 17, 1853.

- In 1962, the Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) was created under the CA DOJ. The Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement and California Bureau of Identification and Investigation (CBI) were transferred under the new DLE, with a single division director (later renamed to division chief) overseeing the bureaus, and reporting directly to the CA AG.

Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (1927 – 2012)



Demystifying
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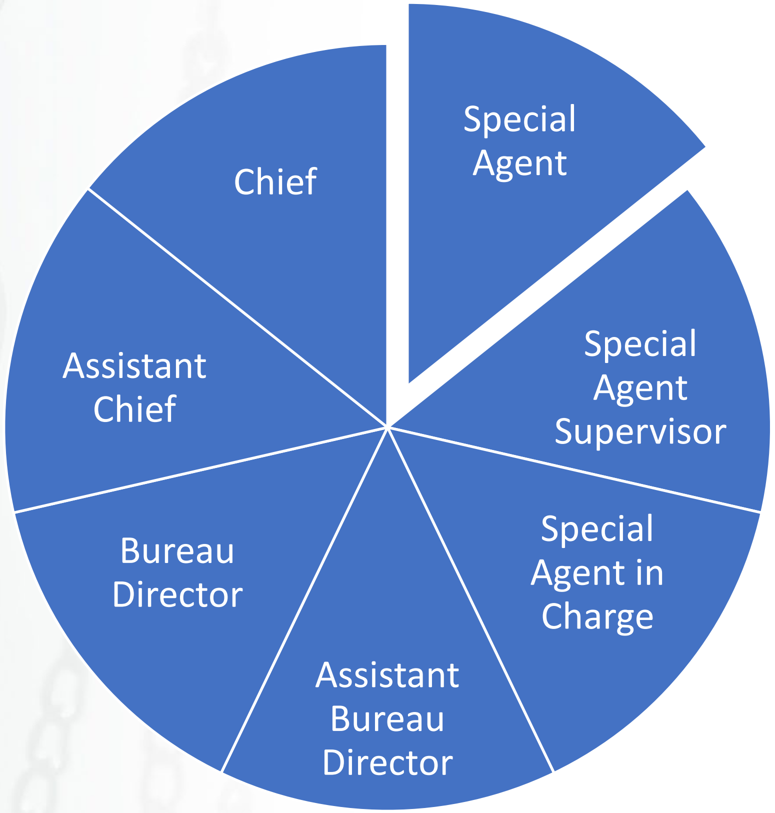
Department of Justice
Two Law Enforcement Divisions

- Division of Law Enforcement
- Division of Medi-Cal Fraud & Elder Abuse

Special Agents

- DOJ Special Agents possess the most expansive police powers in the State of California, enabling them to investigate and enforce laws across all jurisdictions, from local to federal.

Command Structure



- Division of Law Enforcement
  - Bureau of Gambling Control
  - Bureau of Forensic Services
  - Bureau of Firearms
  - Bureau of Investigation

Bureau of Gambling Control

- MISSION: To ensure the integrity of gambling in California.

- Bureau Director: Yolanda Morrow

Bureau of Gambling Control

Compliance and Enforcement

- Criminal investigations that are connected to the legal gambling industry
- Cheat scams
- Loansharking
- Money laundering
- Tax evasion
- Follow home robberies

State *of* California Department *of* Justice

ROB BONTA
Attorney General

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Attorney General Bonta Secures Guilty Pleas Against Pair Who Operated Livermore Gambling Scheme

Press Release / *Attorney General Bonta Secures Guilty Pleas Against Pair Who...*

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Contact: (916) 210-6000, agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO – California Attorney General Rob Bonta today announced the convictions of Eric Nguyen and Khanh “Tina” Tran, who were charged in 2020 in connection with an alleged gambling scheme that resulted in the theft of over $500,000 from the 580 Casino in Livermore, California between 2015 and 2017.

“Breaking the law is never the right way to get ahead,” **said Attorney General Bonta.** “We will not tolerate criminal activity in our state. Today’s announcement holds accountable Nguyen and Tran and sends a message that cheating in California will not lead to success.”

Bureau of Gambling Control

Audit and Compact Compliance

- Adequate Financing
- Title 31/Anti-Money Laundering Audits
- Forensic Accounting
- Asset Forfeiture
- Test slot machine software

State *of* California Department *of* Justice

ROB BONTA

Attorney General

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California Department of Justice Secures $5.3 Million Settlement from Artichoke Joe's Casino

Press Release / *California Department of Justice Secures $5.3 Million Settle...*

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Contact: (916) 210-6000, agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov

Settlement is the largest agreed-upon penalty in the history of California gambling regulation

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Justice (DOJ) today announced a settlement in which Artichoke Joe's Casino in San Bruno agreed to pay a penalty of $5.3 million for misleading gambling regulators and violating the Bank Secrecy Act, a federal law intended to combat money laundering. The casino is a 51-table cardroom with the eighth largest gross gambling revenue in the state. After the cardroom failed to timely or accurately report an investigation by the federal Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), DOJ's Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau) initiated a license disciplinary proceeding against the casino and its owners. Today's settlement includes the largest agreed-upon penalty in the

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Bureau of Gambling Control

Licensing

- Conducts background investigations of:
  - Entities and individuals applying to own or work in cardrooms in California.
  - Tribal key employees.
  - Individuals applying to own or work for third-party providers of proposition player services.
  - Vendors who supply tribal casinos with goods or services.
- Approves games for play in California cardrooms.
- Approves contracts between cardrooms and third-party providers of proposition player services.

Bureau of Gambling Control vs. CA Gambling Control Commission

Bureau of Gambling Control	California Gambling Control Commission
• Criminal Investigations • Licensing Investigations • Compliance Checks • Financial Audits • Initiates Disciplinary Action Against Licensees	• Adjudicates License Approvals, Denials, Revocations, or Disciplinary Actions. • Approves Ownership Changes • Adopts Regulations and Policies

Former Chukchansi casino CEO guilty of fraud, theft charges

By ABC30

Friday, September 23, 2011

FRESNO, Calif.
Jeff Livingston was sentenced to 24 months in prison. He was the casino's top leader between 2006 and 2007.

Livingston was charged with misusing his business credit card for several expensive personal purchases.

He made a brief statement moments after learning his punishment.

"I really don't have a comment other than I believe in the justice system and I'm here today and I have a lot of respect for the judge and the people that were involved and we'll just try to move forward and do all the right things," Livingston said.

Livingston earned $450 thousand a year plus bonuses when the crimes took place.

Casino leaders say they have now added additional accounting practices to guard against fraud.

Tribal council members said they are satisfied with the punishment.

Five Suspects Arrested in a Violent Loan Shark Operation that Preyed on Casino Customers

Press Release / *Five Suspects Arrested in a Violent Loan Shark Operation tha...*

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Contact: (916) 210-6000, agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO - Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. today announced the arrests of five members of a suspected loan-sharking syndicate, headed by a reputed Chinese mobster, that trapped casino gamblers in a "never-ending loop of debt and fear" by loaning them hundreds of thousands of dollars at exorbitant interest rates.

Working inside tribal casinos in the Sacramento area – including Red Hawk and Thunder Valley -- over the last 18 months, the suspects often preyed on Asian gamblers. Once the gamblers accepted loans, the amount they owed began to skyrocket. Some were charged 5 percent interest a week. Because of high interest rates and other charges, one gambler's $100,000 loan mushroomed to $400,000 in five months.

"Loan shark enterprises like this one terrorize people through spiraling financial obligations and threats of violence," Brown said. "Victims are trapped in a never-ending loop of debt and fear."

Authorities said there were about 40 victims.

The charges against the five suspects include felony assault, extortion and conspiracy. Other suspects are being sought.

Among those arrested was the leader of the enterprise, Weixiong Kuang, 44, a suspected member of an organized crime syndicate called the Big Circle Boys, a violent gang out of China.

BFS

Bureau of Forensic Services

Bureau Director: Barry Miller

Missing Persons

Familial Search

DNA Data Bank

CODIS

Demystifying

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Demystifying DNA Searches

CODIS, Familial Database Searches (FDS), and Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG)

Short Tandem Repeats

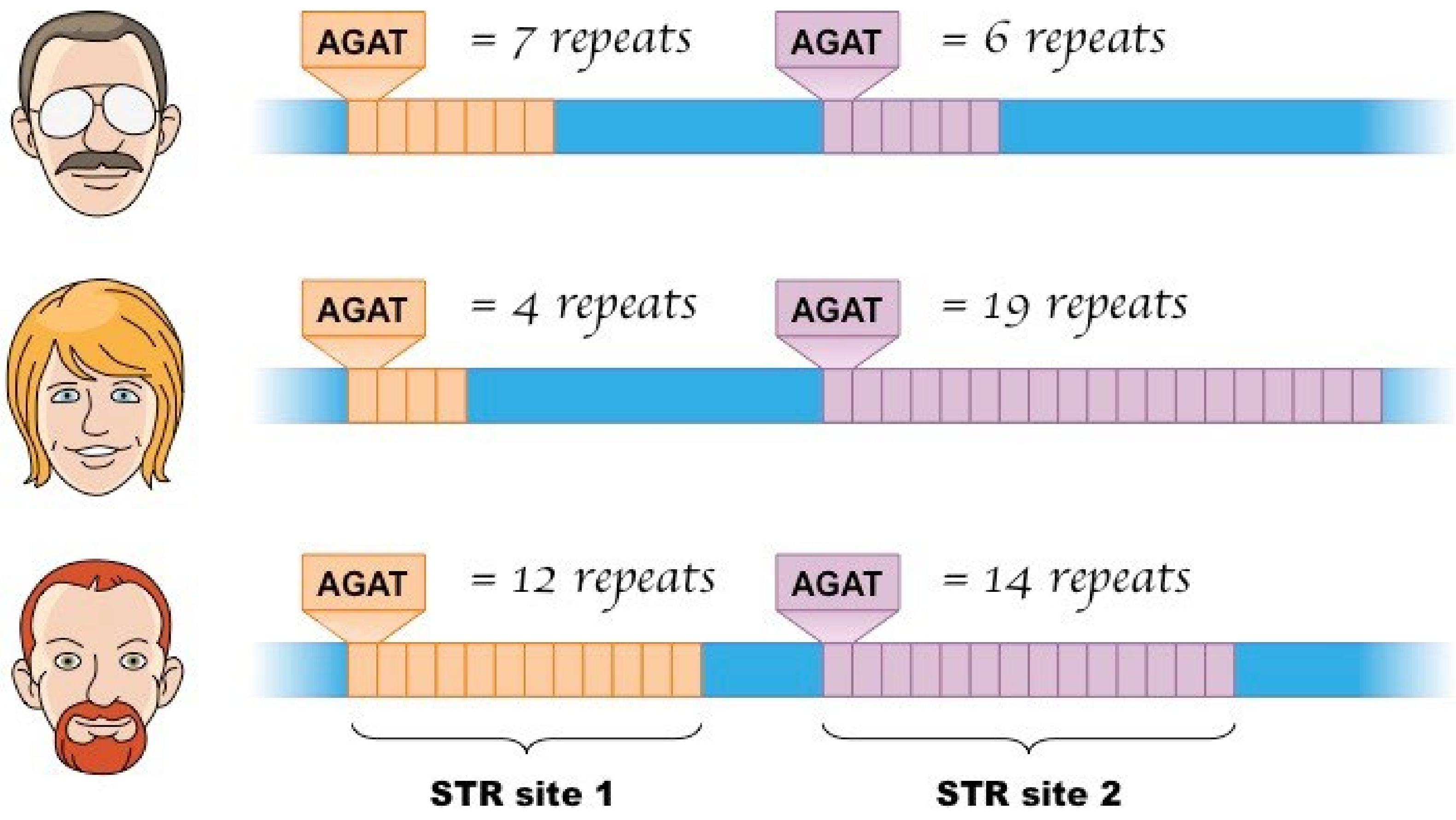
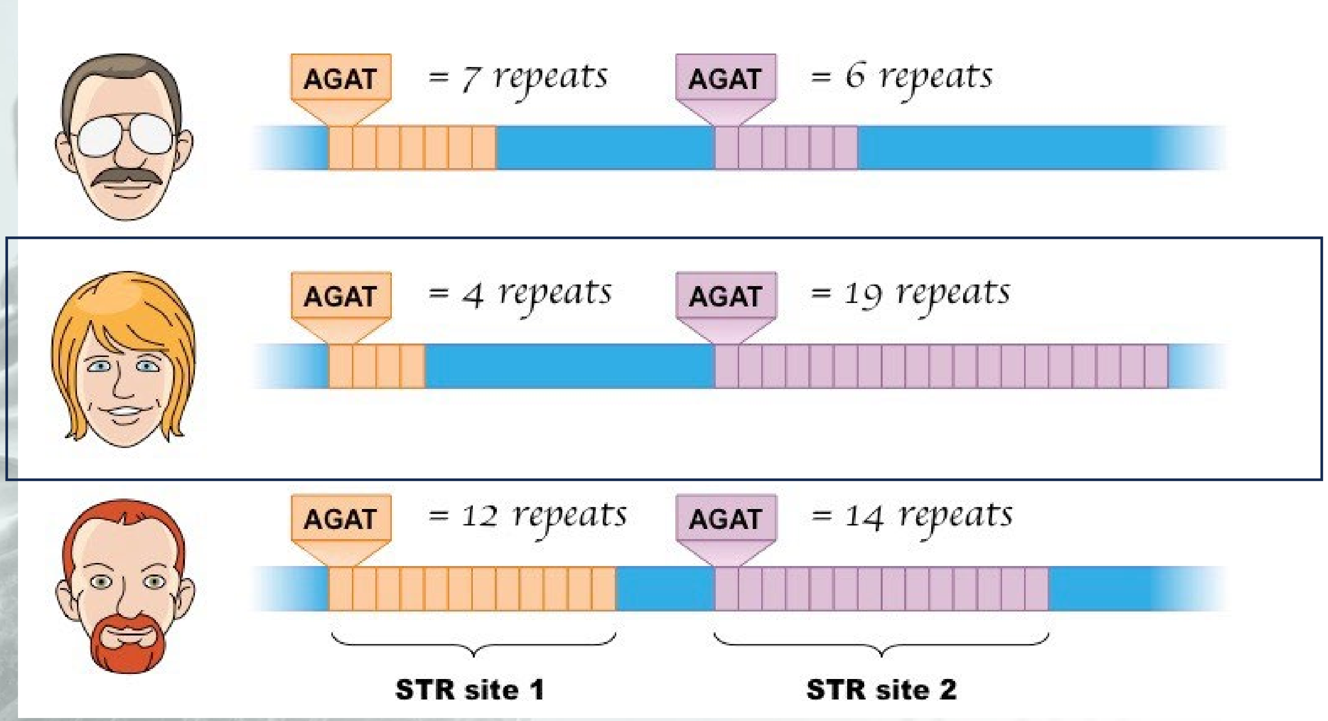


Image Credit: https://old-ib.bioninja.com.au/

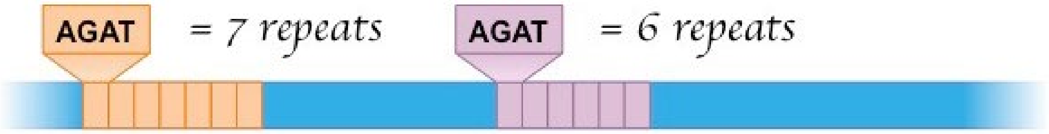
Demystifying DNA Searches

CODIS

Known, Legally Obtained DNA STR Profiles



Forensic DNA Unknown STR Information from a Crime



Demystifying DNA Searches

Forensic Genetic Genealogy

Single Nucleotide Polymorphism

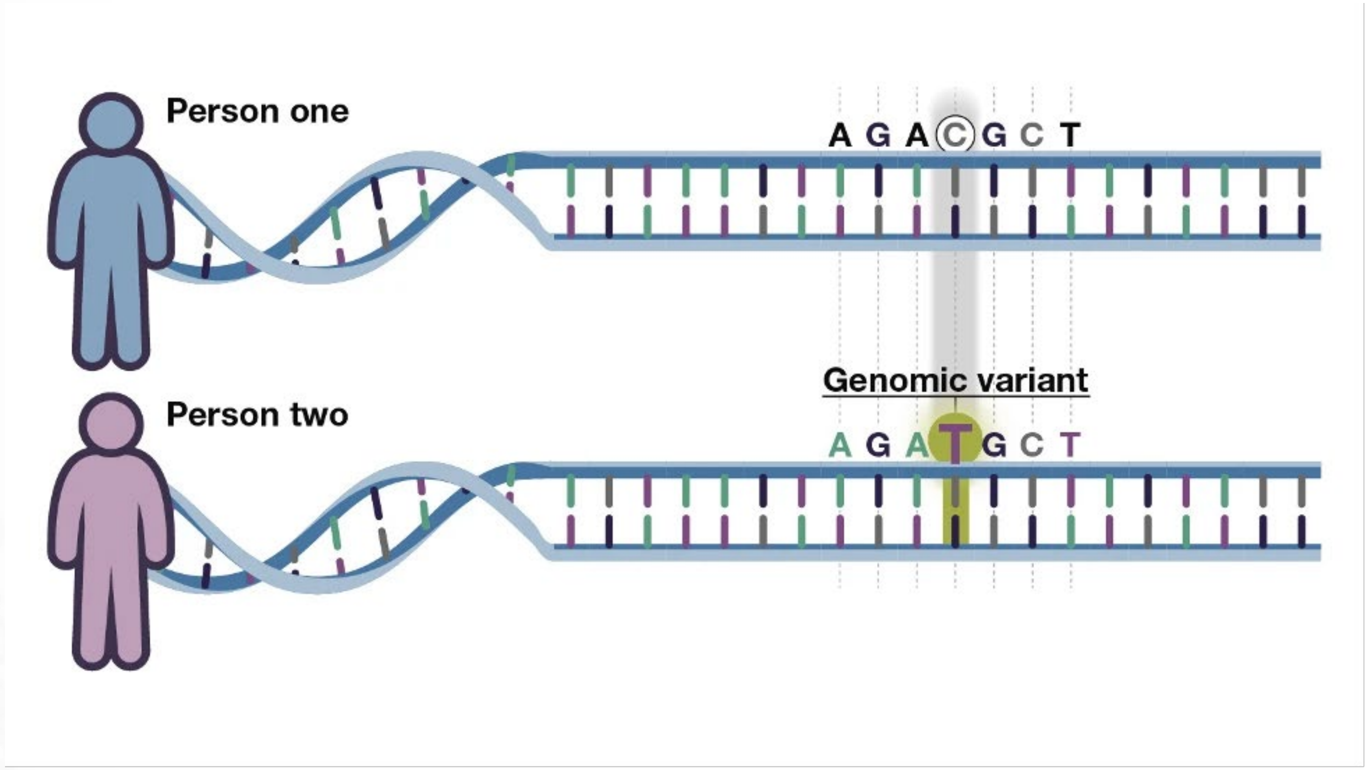


Image Credit: https://magazine.hms.harvard.edu/articles/what-polygenic-risk-score-can-and-cant-tell-you

Demystifying DNA Searches

Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy
FIGG vs Familial Database Searching

	FDS	FIGG
Type of DNA	STRs	SNPs
Type of Database	Government	Public (FTDNA, Gedmatch)
Used by	Authorized Personnel	Genetic Genealogists
Relatives	Parent, child, sibling	Immediate family, cousin and beyond

NOT SEARCHED
23 and Me
Ancestry DNA

Credit: https://jennealogie.com/2022/11/15/familial-dna-searching-vs-forensic-investigative-genetic-genealogy/

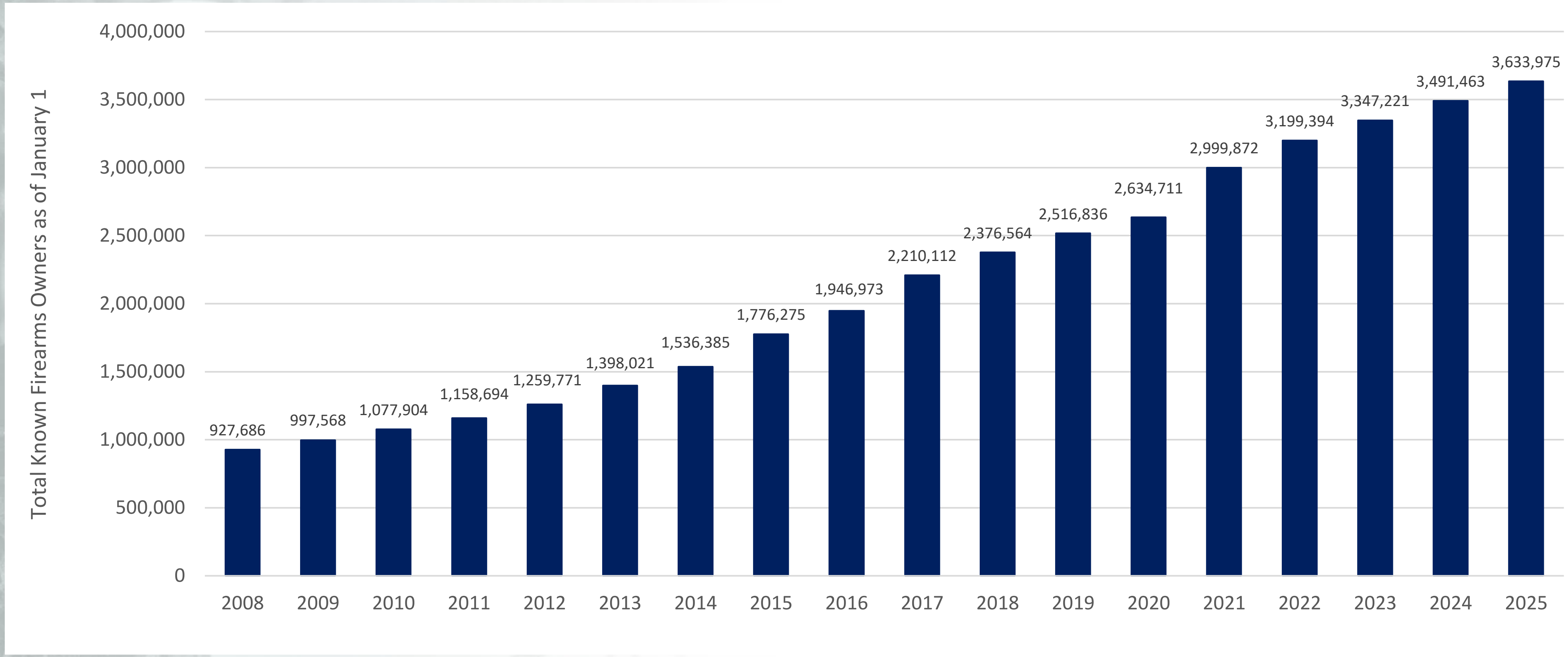
Bureau of Firearms

- MISSION: To serve the people of California through education, regulation, and enforcement actions regarding the manufacture, sale, ownership, safety training, and transfer of firearms.
- **Bureau Director: Allison Mendoza**

Bureau of Firearms

- **Conduct background checks to determine eligibility to own, possess, and/or acquire firearms and ammunition.**
  - Purchases
  - Transfers
  - Self-reporting
  - Returns
  - Employment
  - Permits/Licenses

Bureau of Firearms

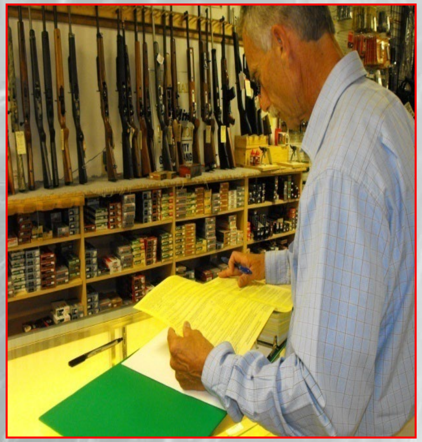


APPS Annual Report 2024

Bureau of Firearms

Conduct in person compliance inspections at licensed locations and gun shows

Conduct trainings to law enforcement, mental health facilities, and firearm/ammunition industry members



Public Resources:

Customer Support Center: 916-210-2300

BOF Website: oag.ca.gov/firearms

Bureau of Firearms

APPS Annual Report 2024

- 76 Authorized sworn positions statewide
- Investigated 8,501 individuals identified as armed and prohibited
- Investigated 115 cases of prohibited individuals who attempted to purchase ammunition
- Recovered 1,520 firearms

Bureau of Investigation

Bureau Director: Brian Rose

Major Investigative Programs

- California Police Shooting Investigation Team (CaPSIT)
- Organized Retail Criminal Enterprise (ORCE)
- White Collar Investigations Team (WCIT)
- Violent Criminal Major Offender (VCMO)
- Human Trafficking and Sexual Predator Apprehension Team (HT/SPAT)
- Special Operations Unit (SOU)
- Fentanyl Enforcement Program (FEP)
- Tax Recovery in the Underground Economy (TRUE)
- Los Angeles Interagency Metropolitan Police Apprehension Crime Taskforce (LA IMPACT)
- Los Angeles Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (LA CLEAR)

Attorney General Bonta Announces Arrests and Arraignment in $1 Million Pizza Franchise Scam

Press Release / *Attorney General Bonta Announces Arrests and Arraignment in ...*

Monday, July 14, 2025

Contact: (916) 210-6000, agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov

OAKLAND – California Attorney General Rob Bonta today announced the arrest and arraignment of two defendants for a complex fraud scheme, in which the defendants allegedly defrauded victims of more than $1 million in investments into franchises or stock options for a company offering pizza restaurant franchises. The defendants were recently arraigned in San Diego Superior Court on felony charges including eleven counts of Franchise Fraud in violation of California Corporations Code, nine counts of Security Fraud, one count of Fraudulent Securities Scheme, and two counts of Grand Theft and a special allegation of aggravated white-collar crimes with losses over $500,000.

"The white-collar crime scheme perpetrated by these defendants stole money from Californians who were attempting to become entrepreneurs or make investments into business. At the California Department of Justice, we won't stand idly by if individuals cause financial harm to hardworking Californians to enrich themselves," **said Attorney General Bonta**. "My office will continue to fight to hold bad actors accountable, and protect Californians' pocketbooks."

Between 2020 and 2023, the two defendants solicited and received money from investors who believed they were either purchasing public stock options or franchises of a pizza restaurant chain. The scheme victimized many individuals with little to no business investment experience, leading victims to believe they were becoming legitimate business owners or stockholders, including some victims who were over the age of 65, and two military veterans. The financial commitment of the victims ranged from $5,000 to $150,000 and the defendants secured nearly $1 million in funds from their victims. Within months of receiving funds from victims, the defendants began closing off communications with them, and ultimately stopped all communication. After the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the defendants also obtained multiple loans aimed to assist small businesses post pandemic, totaling $287,000. These loans were never paid back.

Attorney General Bonta, San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force Conduct Sting Operation During Comic-Con Weekend in San Diego, Arrest 13 Sex Buyers

Press Release / *Attorney General Bonta, San Diego Human Trafficking Task For...*

Thursday, August 7, 2025

Contact: (916) 210-6000, agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov

SAN DIEGO – As part of a joint investigation through the San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force (SDHTTF), California Attorney General Rob Bonta today announced the results of a three-day sting operation throughout San Diego County, targeting sex buyers over Comic-Con weekend. During a three-day operation from July 24 to 26, 2025, the California Department of Justice's SDHTTF conducted a demand reduction operation targeting sex buyers that resulted in 13 arrests for solicitation.

"My office is proud of the dedicated work of the San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force on this demand reduction operation," **said Attorney General Rob Bonta**. "Solicitation is a crime, and these arrests send a clear message to potential offenders that we stand ready to hold them accountable. The demand for commercial sex is a driving factor that contributes to human trafficking, where perpetrators profit from the exploitation of people for sex or labor by force, fraud, or coercion. We are grateful to all our dedicated partners involved in the San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force, whose collaboration has been invaluable."

As part of the operation, agents went undercover to initiate contact with sex buyers throughout San Diego County, resulting in 13 arrests for solicitation, in violation of Penal Code 647(b)(2). Solicitation is a crime subject to jail time and monetary penalties. While not all commercial sex is linked to human trafficking, the demand for commercial sex is a driving force that contributes to human trafficking, as human traffickers profit from forced or coerced commercial sex work. Sex buyers may unknowingly contribute to human trafficking by engaging in Solicitation.

Demystifying THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Together With Local and Federal Law Enforcement Partners, Attorney General Bonta Reaffirms Commitment to Combat the Fentanyl Epidemic

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Contact: (916) 210-6000, agpressoffice@doj.ca.gov

Attorney General Bonta joins law enforcement partners in Sacramento region to discuss collaborative efforts to protect communities from fentanyl

SACRAMENTO — California Attorney General Rob Bonta, Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho, Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper, Placer County District Attorney Morgan Gire, and local and federal law enforcement partners today to reaffirmed their commitment to combating the fentanyl epidemic through collaborative action. The California Department of Justice (DOJ) is actively working to prevent fentanyl trafficking across the border through coordinated efforts with local and federal law enforcement partners throughout California to stop fentanyl before it ever has a chance to make it to Sacramento. As of April 2025, DOJ has seized a total of 15,468,990 fentanyl pills, 6,793 pounds of fentanyl powder and have arrested 508 suspects on fentanyl related charges.

"Today, I want to remind Californians that our work will continue until illicit fentanyl stops destroying lives," **said Attorney General Rob Bonta**. "We will continue to collaborate with local, state, and federal law enforcement wherever possible. We'll investigate traffickers, disrupt trafficking networks, and continue to prevent overdose deaths by taking illicit fentanyl off of our streets. Those who bring this poison into the state can expect to be prosecuted and held accountable for the death and devastation they've caused. We are extremely thankful to all our Greater Sacramento area law enforcement partners standing on the frontlines with us to battle this epidemic."

"With a focus on increased accountability for drug dealers, our SACFORCE team has successfully prosecuted dangerous drug peddlers," **Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho.** "We're partnering regionally to disrupt fentanyl distribution and increasing public awareness to protect people from fentanyl poisonings. This combined approach is working in Sacramento, and we will continue to keep fentanyl deaths on a downward trend."

24 kilos at border on 11/21/2024 - meth

Work Closely With Deputy Attorney Generals at the CA DOJ

- Vertical Prosecution
- Criminal Division: Special Prosecutions Unit
- FEP, SOU, HT-SPAT, TRUE, VCMO, ORCE, CaPSIT, WCIT
- One Special Agent Supervisor assigned to CRIM

Six Regional Offices

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

RIVERSIDE

SAN DIEGO

Northern California

SACRAMENTO

DUBLIN

Central California

FRESNO

Upcoming Events

<u>CARE Community Briefing: State of Pride Report 2025</u>

Date: Thu, Sept 25, 2025

Time: 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Location: Virtual Zoom Presentation

Please fill out a brief survey following this webinar presentation. Thank you!