

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Receives Life Sentence for Murdering Clerk During Robbery

A 35-year-old man was sentenced today to life in state prison for fatally shooting a discount store clerk, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Robert Perry sentenced Eric William Atkinson to life without the possibility of parole for the special-circumstance murder of Martha Sanchez during a robbery. Judge Perry imposed an additional 38 years for a count of witness intimidation and allegations of gun use and a prior conviction of attempted robbery. Atkinson also was found guilty of a charge of felon with a firearm.

A jury convicted Atkinson on Jan. 22.

On Sept. 17, 2013, Atkinson entered a store in the 7400 block of South Broadway in Los Angeles, where he fatally shot Sanchez, a married mother of five children. A store surveillance video captured the shooting.

Deputy District Attorney Joel Wilson prosecuted case BA418132.

The Los Angeles Police Department's Criminal Gang and Homicide Division investigated the case.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.