

# Jackie Lacey

District Attorney  
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NEWS RELEASE

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May 31, 2016

## Man Charged With Capital Murder in Slaying of Girlfriend in West Hollywood

A man was charged today with torturing and killing his girlfriend in West Hollywood last week, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Blake Leibel (dob 5/8/81) was charged in case SA093029 and pleaded not guilty to one count each of murder, mayhem, aggravated mayhem and torture. He also faces special circumstance allegations of the murder involving torture and mayhem, making him eligible for the death penalty.

Deputy District Attorney Tannaz Mokayef of the Major Crimes Division is prosecuting the case.

Leibel is accused of murdering his 30-year-old girlfriend, Iana Kasian, on or between May 23 and May 26, at an apartment they shared in West Hollywood. Kasian was tortured and mutilated before she was killed and all of her blood was drained from her body, the prosecutor said.

On May 26, Leibel was arrested by Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies at the apartment where he had barricaded himself.

Leibel faces the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole. A decision on whether to seek the death penalty will be made at a later date.

The case remains under investigation by the sheriff's Homicide Bureau.

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### [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.