

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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LAPD Officer Convicted of Assault While On Duty

A jury today found a Los Angeles police officer guilty of assault under color of authority while arresting a woman in July 2012, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

The jury found LAPD Officer Mary O'Callaghan, 50, guilty of the count as charged. She is facing up to three years in state prison when she returns to court on July 23 before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Sam Ohta in case BA417095.

"I am pleased that the jury agreed with our assessment of the evidence in this case," said District Attorney Jackie Lacey. "The verdict proves the criminal justice system works."

Deputy District Attorney Shannon Presby, assistant head deputy of the Justice System Integrity Division, prosecuted the case.

On July 22, 2012, LAPD officers were dispatched to Alesia Thomas' residence in the 9100 block of South Broadway Avenue to investigate possible child abandonment. After interviewing Thomas, LAPD officers placed her under arrest.

O'Callaghan arrived on the scene to assist the arresting officers with placing Thomas, who was handcuffed and had on leg restraints, in a patrol car. A police cruiser's video camera captured O'Callaghan kicking Thomas in the stomach and groin area and pushing her in the throat.

While in the patrol car, Thomas lost consciousness and paramedics were called. She was transported to a hospital where she was pronounced dead.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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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 seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.