

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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LAPD Officer Charged with Assaulting a Man Outside a Staples Center Restaurant

An LAPD officer was arraigned today on charges that he used excessive force while detaining a man standing outside a restaurant near the Staples Center in 2012, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jonathan Lai (dob 9/28/83) pleaded not guilty to one count each of assault by a police officer and assault with a deadly weapon in case BA427067. His bail was set at \$35,000.

Deputy District Attorney Gretchen Ford with the Justice System Integrity Division is prosecuting the case.

While on routine patrol on April 15, 2012, Lai and his partner approached a man standing alone outside a restaurant near the Staples Center. The restaurant's security video allegedly shows Lai repeatedly using his police baton to strike the man who was on his knees with his hands on his head.

Lai returns to court on Aug. 21 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Department 30, to set a date for his preliminary hearing. If convicted, Lai faces up to four years in state prison.

The Los Angeles Police Department investigated the case.

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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 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.