

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Aug. 20, 2014

**Former Track Coach Charged
With Sexual Battery of a Minor**

A former South Pasadena High School track coach accused of groping a student pleaded not guilty yesterday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Pierre Jonas Hernandez (dob 5/3/82) of South Pasadena is charged with four misdemeanor counts: one count of child molesting and three counts of sexual battery in case 4AH02817.

The defendant appeared before Judge Cathryn F. Brougham at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Alhambra.

Deputy District Attorney Amy Murphy, who is prosecuting the case, said Hernandez inappropriately touched a female student in April.

Authorities were notified about the alleged assault and Hernandez was charged in connection with the crime on May 12.

The defendant's next court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 23 for a pretrial hearing at the Alhambra Courthouse in Department 4.

If convicted as charged, Hernandez faces jail time and lifetime sex offender registration.

The case is being investigated by the South Pasadena 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 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.