

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Paul Eakins
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
PEakins@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOffice

Aug. 22, 2019

Realtor, Accomplice Charged with Burglarizing Celebrity Homes

A Beverly Hills Realtor and another man have been charged with burglarizing celebrity homes and other residences from 2016 to 2018, allegedly using open houses to help facilitate the crimes, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Realtor Jason Emil Yaselli (dob 12/10/86) and Benjamin Eitan Ackerman (dob 4/24/86), both of Beverly Hills, are each charged in case BA480314 with 32 counts of money laundering, 12 counts of first-degree residential burglary, two counts of first-degree residential burglary with a person present, two counts of identity theft, one count of conspiracy to commit burglary and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. The charges include an allegation of taking more than \$500,000 through fraud and embezzlement.

Yaselli is expected to be arraigned tomorrow in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Ackerman pleaded not guilty and denied the allegations at his arraignment on Aug. 19, and bail was set at \$1.2 million. A preliminary hearing setting is scheduled for Oct. 3 in Department 30.

The case was filed for warrant on Aug. 15. Ackerman was arrested on Aug. 16, and Yaselli was arrested yesterday.

From December 2016 through August 2018, Yaselli allegedly encouraged Ackerman to steal luxury items from 14 homes, sell them and use the proceeds to make payments on Yaselli's credit card, according to the criminal complaint.

The victims named in the complaint include musicians Usher Raymond and Adam Lambert, reality TV personalities Paul and Dorit Kemsley, and former professional football player Shaun Phillips.

In many instances, the pair allegedly identified the targets or committed the burglaries during open houses in Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Brentwood and Hollywood Hills, according to Deputy District Attorney Stephen Morgan of the White Collar Crime Division.

The defendants face a possible maximum sentence of 31 years and eight months in state prison if convicted as charged. The prosecutor is recommending that bail for Yaselli be set at \$1.73 million.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department.

[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.