

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

ANN L. BRAMSEN
Acting District Attorney



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June 15, 2010

RELEASE DATE

Ann L. Bramsen

APPROVED BY ANN BRAMSEN, ACTING D.A.

Rosemary Moll

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

June 15, 2010

TERMINATION OF JOSH LYNN

At 5:15 p.m. today, I terminated Josh Lynn from his employment at the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office.

The purpose of this press release is to help the public better understand some important general background information about the matter. Since this is a personnel issue, I am limited by law in disclosing specific details; however, this is a serious issue and I will do my best to explain the situation within the confines of the law.

Josh Lynn was promoted to the management position of Chief Trial Deputy under Christie Stanley's administration and when he accepted the position he knowingly became an "at will" employee. Joyce Dudley is a Senior Deputy District Attorney subject to "classified service"¹ or civil service rules. Joyce Dudley and Josh Lynn both took vacation time during the last couple of weeks of the election and they were both scheduled to return to work on Monday, June 14, 2010.

On Friday, June 11, 2010, to ensure a smooth transition upon return to the office, I made the decision to give Josh Lynn one paid day off on Monday, June 14, 2010. The one paid day off was not a suspension, nor was it imposed for disciplinary purposes; it was simply for the purpose of reviewing the administrative organization of the District Attorney's Office and to avoid any possible disruption or impairment of the working relationships among District Attorney staff and to ensure the maintaining of satisfactory and harmonious working relations with the public and our employees.

Mr. Lynn took the one paid day off and twisted it in an inappropriate way that is negatively affecting the office. After I notified Mr. Lynn of his one paid day off, additional concerns arose that changed my view.

The organizational structure of the District Attorney's Office is similar to many other offices of local elected public officials. In the District Attorney's Office there is an elected District Attorney. The elected District Attorney has a management team that consists of one Chief Assistant District Attorney in the North County and one in the South, followed by one Chief Trial Deputy in the North and one in the South. The Chief Assistant and Chief Trial Deputy positions are management attorneys chosen by the elected District Attorney to lead the office. When an attorney accepts a management position in the District Attorney's Office, he or she chooses to do so knowing they will become exempt from "Classified Service" (Civil Service) and become subject to "at will"² employment.

¹ Civil Service Rules and the County Code divide them as those within the classified service and those exempt (at will) from the civil service system. The Rules define "Classified Service" to include "All offices, positions, and employments in the Santa Barbara County service except those expressly designated as exempt from the provisions of the Civil Service System under Article II, Section 27-25 of the Santa Barbara County Code, unless they are otherwise required to be in the classified service because of State or Federal laws or regulations.

² "At will" means a person who serves at the pleasure ("at the will of") of the Appointing Authority, in this case serves at the pleasure of the elected DA. Such a person is not subject to the County's Civil Service Rules. All other employees in the District Attorney's Office are subject to classified service rules or more commonly known as civil service rules.