



Los Angeles County Professional
Peace Officers Association

Volume 53
Issue 1

January 2026

STAR & SHIELD

commemorating

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of SERVICE**

PPOA Continues Its *Tradition of Success*

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Star & Shield is the official publication of the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA).

Opinions expressed by individual Board members or contributing authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the entire Board.

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LA County PPOA



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Embracing the Challenges in PPOA's 75th Year

Happy new year to all of you and your families! A new year brings new hope, fresh energy and new chances to grow. While the times we live in are not easy, they are filled with opportunity. Even when challenges feel big, they can help us become stronger, smarter and more united.

I am truly honored to represent you as your union president. I want to begin by saying thank you. Thank you for the long hours, the sacrifices and the commitment you show every day. Your work matters, and it makes a real difference in the lives of others. As your servant leader, my job is to put your needs first. That means caring about your well-being at work, at home and as part of the PPOA family.

Please know this: PPOA's staff and leadership are always here for you — day or night. Whether you need help or guidance, you are never alone. The challenges we face are real, but they also push us to think in new ways, stand strong together and move forward with purpose. You can count on PPOA to take bold action and make smart decisions to protect and support you.

Our members serve proudly in the Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Medical Examiner. These are demanding jobs that test your strength and determination. Yet time and time again, you rise to the challenge and deliver excellent work. As we complete negotiations for our next Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), PPOA will continue to fight hard for your best interests. We understand the added pressure created by major global events coming to our county, and we will make sure your voices are heard.

Many of you are feeling stretched thin. Long overtime hours, not enough staffing, strict oversight and public criticism can wear anyone down. These pressures are real, and they affect not only your work life, but your personal life as well. Still, there is good news. The momentum is shifting. PPOA's strong involvement — along with support from our local, state and national partners — is making a difference. Together, we are seeing progress.

As we move into 2026, financial challenges remain. Budgets are tight, and tough decisions lie ahead. But our commitment has not changed. PPOA will continue to fight for fair pay, strong benefits and the protection of your rights. We will demand honesty and transparency from county leaders. More members of the public are beginning to understand the value of the work you do, and your daily actions continue to build trust and respect.

I am also proud to share that I have been appointed as second vice president of the California Fraternal Order of Police (CAFOP), having previously served as CAFOP sergeant-at-arms.



Steve Johnson
PPOA President
Lieutenant, LASD
sjohnson@ppoaa.com

This new role gives PPOA a stronger voice at the state and national levels. This means we will have more influence over decisions that affect your careers, your rights and your future. In the year ahead, we will stay fully engaged in protecting your privacy and ensuring your right to fair treatment.

This year is especially meaningful because PPOA is celebrating its 75th anniversary. That is 75 years of standing together, supporting one another and fighting for what is right. Our union was founded on a simple idea: protect, support and advance those who serve with honor, courage and professionalism. From the very beginning, PPOA has worked to give its members a strong and united voice.

No matter the assignment or challenge, our members have continued to perform at the highest level. As labor concerns have increased, PPOA has responded by strengthening advocacy, building partnerships and standing firm at the bargaining table. Through these efforts, we have secured fair agreements, defended due process and protected the rights of our members.

“PPOA IS CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF STANDING TOGETHER, SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER AND FIGHTING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT.”

PPOA's 75 Years of Professional Representation

This month, PPOA proudly marks its 75th year of service, and although one can argue that this may not feel like a time to celebrate this momentous occasion, our membership must never forget PPOA's remarkable commitment to continuing a "Tradition of Success" — no matter the year.

In 1951, a few members from the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office and Marshal's Office met in the Coroner's inquest room at the Hall of Records to form the Los Angeles County Peace Officers Protective Association (POPA). Driven by a 1952 proposal to abolish all public employee retirement systems, our founders demanded a pay raise from their monthly salary of \$319. Within five years, monthly salaries increased by more than 61% and the pension abolition proposal was defeated. POPA was growing in membership and was a new labor force to be dealt with in Los Angeles County. In 1978, the official name of POPA and its acronym changed to the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), but the original pronunciation has remained.

It truly feels like it was yesterday when PPOA marked its 70th-year milestone in January 2021. The previous 10 months (March to December 2020) included the most intense and complex health, economic, political and social issues for our 9,000 members and their families in recent memory. PPOA historically and collectively confronted the numerous twists and turns of the COVID-19 virus and the justice reform actions resulting from George Floyd's death in May 2020. Our membership stayed unified then, and through the next five years we have remained passionately committed to continuing PPOA's mission of promoting the professional interests of our members.

In August 2022, leadership history occurred at PPOA as then-Lieutenant Nancy Escobedo was selected by the Board to serve as PPOA president. Nancy is the first female member in PPOA's history to be president. In December 2023, leadership history once again occurred at PPOA as Lieutenant Steve Johnson was selected by the Board to serve as PPOA president. Steve is the first African-American member in PPOA's history to be president.

In November 2024, PPOA enthusiastically and successfully supported Nathan Hochman to replace the worst district attorney in the history of L.A. County.

In January 2025, two historic wildfires, the Eaton Fire in Altadena and the Palisades Fire in Pacific Palisades, destroyed



Wayne Quint Jr.
PPOA Executive Director
wquint@ppoa.com

more than 16,000 homes. The actions of our first responders to save lives and property were truly heroic.

In April 2025, after months of meetings, the Coalition of County Unions (CCU), including PPOA and 14 other unions, negotiated a three-year (2025–2028) fringe benefit contract, which includes a much-sought-after new voluntary 401(k) benefit for rank-and-file members. In October 2025, as our Bargaining Unit (B/U) 612 members painfully know, the salary contract negotiations table for our LASD/LADA sergeants and lieutenants surpassed the one-year mark. Negotiations with all parties began in September 2024, and the current B/U 612 salary contract expired on January 31, 2025.

As PPOA enters its 75th year of protecting and enhancing our members' individual and collective rights, PPOA will continue to defend our core belief that a well-compensated workforce attracts and retains the best professionals from a

**WE HAVE REMAINED
PASSIONATELY COMMITTED TO
CONTINUING PPOA'S MISSION OF
PROMOTING THE PROFESSIONAL
INTERESTS OF OUR MEMBERS.**

universe of qualified personnel that is becoming increasingly scarce. PPOA will be back at the salary contract bargaining table in January 2026 for B/U 612, followed by B/Us 621, 614 and 631/632.

For the past 75 years and counting, PPOA has stood as a proactive and imaginative association that, regardless of membership issues, conducts our business affairs consistently with our motto of "professionals representing professionals." PPOA remains a highly respected public safety union at the local, state and federal levels, and our Board of Directors remains strongly committed to continuing our "Tradition of Success" in serving a satisfied membership. Happy 75th birthday, PPOA. ♚

Truly Grateful for Support From Fellow PPOA Members

Happy new year to everyone. I hope each of you had a great holiday and was able to spend quality time with your family and loved ones.

I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who took the time to vote and put their trust in me as a PPOA Board member. I'm truly grateful for the support, and I don't take this responsibility lightly. Knowing that my fellow members believed in me enough to give me this opportunity means more than I can put into words.

I also want to give a sincere thank-you to Luis Orozco for a job well done. His hard work, dedication and commitment to our members have made a real impact. The time and effort he put in to serve this organization deserve recognition, and I appreciate



Vardan Kasabyan
PPOA Board Member
Sheriff Security Officer, LASD
vkasabyan@ppoa.com

everything he has done for PPOA and its members.

This position isn't just a title to me — it's a responsibility. When you voted for me, you trusted me with your voice, and that trust matters. Because of that, it's now my time to step up, fight and make sure the concerns of Sheriff Security Officers and Sheriff Security Assistants are heard and taken seriously.

I know firsthand the challenges we face. Issues like fair pay, proper uniforms and other ongoing concerns affect us every day, both on and off the job. These aren't small matters — they impact morale, safety and the respect we deserve as professionals. I am committed to pushing for real improvements in these areas and standing firm on behalf of our members.

I believe in listening, being present and speaking up when it counts. I want you to know that I'm here for you. I will bring your concerns forward, ask the tough questions and advocate for what's right. This role is about service, unity and making sure no one feels overlooked or unheard.

MEMBERS CAN WIN!



IT PAYS TO READ

STAR & SHIELD

THREE \$100 PRIZES

Every issue of *Star & Shield* will feature a different hidden word. The word will be used only once in the entire magazine — your challenge is to find it!

Members who find the hidden word and register through our website (PPOA.com) by the end of this month will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 prizes. Contest ends January 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. PT.

This month's hidden word is:

Volatile

Likely to change rapidly and unexpectedly, especially for the worse

Online registration only. Please do not call the PPOA office to register for contest.

**I'M HERE FOR YOU. I WILL
BRING YOUR CONCERN
FORWARD, ASK THE TOUGH
QUESTIONS AND ADVOCATE
FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.**

Thank you again for your trust, your support and your confidence in me. I'm ready to work, ready to fight and ready to represent you with honesty and integrity. Together, we can move forward and continue building a stronger future for our law enforcement family. 

Ready and Waiting

The last three months have been nothing short of eventful, from the inevitable implementation of the body-worn cameras (BWCs) to the upcoming contract negotiations and an attempt to overhaul the scheduling of an entire facility. Let's get right into it.

The rollout of the BWCs within custody was anything but smooth. I addressed this at length in my last article and I'll reiterate LASD has the right to implement new equipment. As a union, PPOA has the right, under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA), to meet and confer over the policy in which the new equipment is implemented. After the months-long process of meet-and-confers, the policy was meticulously negotiated and agreed upon. This is not an ongoing issue. The BWCs are live and not going away. Within the Points of Agreement, Custody Assistants were not eligible to attend BWC training for the first 90 days after the publication of the policy, which expired November 16. Also addressed in the Points of Agreement was that all C/As who attended BWC training earlier this year shall re-attend the eight-hour BWC training prior to donning the BWC. This was not written as an option in the Points of Agreement. Therefore, if any C/A is being denied the opportunity to re-attend the training, please reach out to PPOA for this matter to be addressed through the proper channels. Moving forward, BWC training is authorized, and any and all C/As assigned shall attend. The next shift, you shall don the BWC and the 120-day transition period begins.

I have received several inquiries pertaining to our contract, which is in good-faith continuance since its expiration on March 31, 2025. Bargaining Unit 621 has established the negotiations team and we are in the early planning stages of our proposals. A survey was sent out to the personal emails of PPOA members at the end of September. If you did not receive the survey, please contact the PPOA office to confirm your correct email is on file, and check your spam in the future. Regardless of misperceptions, the survey and your vote matter, now more than ever. The lack of response was disheartening, but the results of the survey were not surprising. C/As overwhelmingly feel overworked and undercompensated. "Doing the same work as deputies for half the pay" has become our battle cry. And no, "Just become a deputy" is not the solution to ignored systemic failures that impact roughly 1,200 C/As. I cannot vouch for what has transpired during past negotiations.



Melissa Rodriguez
PPOA Board Member
Custody Assistant, LASD
mrodriguez@ppoa.com

However, I acknowledge the uphill battle ahead, and we intend to capitalize on this opportunity to have legitimate custody issues addressed and resolved for the betterment of our classification.

This past October, I had a briefing at one of our custody facilities to discuss the new BWC policy and to have an open dialogue about on-the-job concerns. Within this briefing, it was discovered that there was a planned overhaul of the facility scheduling cycles. Regardless of the facilities' reasoning, under the MMBA, there is a process in place for any attempt to initiate changes that potentially impact union members. That process is notification to the Board of Labor Relations and Compliance

(BOLRAC), which then notifies the union entities to allow an opportunity to meet and confer over the proposed changes. An employer can, at times, stand the risk of litigation if it bypasses the union to negotiate directly with

**C/AS OVERWHELMINGLY
FEEL OVERWORKED AND
UNDERCOMPENSATED. "DOING
THE SAME WORK AS DEPUTIES
FOR HALF THE PAY" HAS
BECOME OUR BATTLE CRY.**

the employees about changes to terms and conditions of employment. Subsequently, in late October, PPOA initiated and attended a meet-and-confer with the facility's leadership and BOLRAC to address the concerns of our members via the appropriate protocol. This confidential conferral process is still ongoing; however, PPOA will continue to provide updates to the impacted members. PPOA has a strong stance on the matter and will continue to act in the best interests of our members. ♦

Assessing a New Round of Wins and Worries for Retired Members

Welcome to 2026! I am writing this in 2025, but I get to say that early. Last year was a banner year for retirees. We got some good tax breaks, they increased the Blue Cross cap (and it looks like there will be more), we had a great Retiree Roundup and we have hopefully all tried to do something to be healthier in retirement. Of course, we have lost some amazing people as well. Each year, I reflect on those we have lost and I cherish the memories I had with them.

It looks like the upcoming year may result in better tax breaks for Social Security recipients (now that WEP is gone, you get the reality of paying taxes on those higher earnings as well ... nothing is free), but it appears there will be an additional \$6,000 deduction to help offset the gains.



Jim Schallert
PPOA Retiree Representative
LASD retired
jschallert@ppoa.com

PPOA held our first electronic elections for the Board seat representing Sheriff Security Officers and Sheriff Security Assistants this year. We had a good turnout, especially considering that electronic elections require registration. Retired members also need to register to vote. Please register at PPOA.com so you can participate in surveys, elections and other instances where we need your input. Many of us prefer paper and pen, but the world is changing and we need to adapt.

With that said, please beware of all the scams out there directed specifically at retirees. The simple rules that I follow are:

- If it looks too good to be true, it's a scam.
- If someone is saying your credit card or account has been locked until you contact them, it's likely a scam and you need to call the institution, but not at the contact number or link in the email. Go to your statements to get the correct number or look on the back of your credit card.
- If someone says your relative is being held hostage in another country, it is likely a scam.
- If someone says you need to pay taxes by buying a bunch of gift cards, it's likely a scam.
- If someone calls from Windows support, *it's a scam*.

Never let anyone remotely log in to your computer.

In closing, please take care of yourselves and your families, get out and walk every day, and schedule your colonoscopies and skin cancer checks. Do the simple things to make the best of your retirement! 🌟

**PLEASE BEWARE OF ALL
THE SCAMS OUT THERE
DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY
AT RETIREES.**

Health care continues to be the huge question mark in the country, as well as the cost of prescription drugs. As things change, or if it appears we will be impacted, I will be sure to let you know what I see coming.

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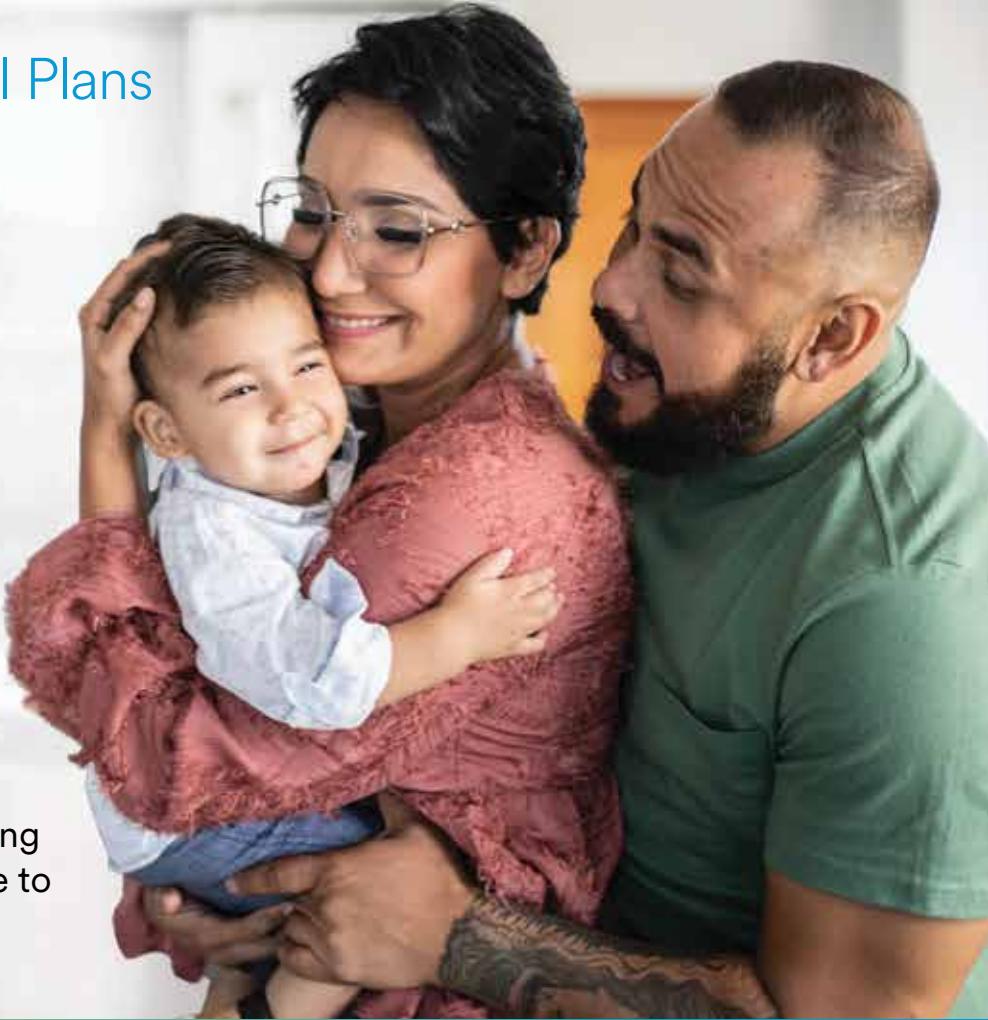
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Power in Numbers: Proud to Welcome New Sergeants and Custody Assistants

PPOA representatives met with 31 Sergeants attending Supervisory School at STARS Center in November and spent an afternoon with 20 newly hired Custody Assistants at Biscailuz Center during their first day of orientation in December. 



Your Vote — Your Voice

Moving forward, voting for PPOA elections and contracts will be conducted online.

PPOA members must be registered for electronic elections in order to cast a vote. **REGISTER TODAY** by scanning the QR code, or visit PPOA.com and click the Elections/ Benefits tab. Then click Register and enter your info. Following that, please check your email to confirm within 20 minutes.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact PPOA at (323) 261-3010 or info@ppoa.com.



Acknowledging Support for the Police Unity Tour

PPOA representatives joined fellow Police Unity Tour participants for a ceremony at the Hall of Justice last month. Sheriff Luna presented scrolls to cyclists and support team members who took part in the 2025 Police Unity Tour. President Steve Johnson and Board Members Noe Ramos and Rob Weber were present, along with staff member Greg Torres and two of our trusted attorneys, Max Baron (Strausser, Sherman, Lonné, Treger, Helquist, Krupnik) and Adam Turner (Lewis, Marenstein, Wicke, Sherwin & Lee), who have been dedicated members of the support team.

PPOA has been honored to help uphold this noble tradition year after year by sponsoring riders and partnering with ALADS to provide daily support for the cyclists. PPOA reps were also presented with a custom-framed Police Unity Tour jersey in November as acknowledgment of the union's dedication to families of fallen officers and our ongoing support for this event. 🚓



Now Showing: PPOA Podcasts!

The first two episodes in a new series of PPOA video podcasts are now online.

Episode 1 features an enlightening discussion with J.P. Lonné (senior partner with Strausser, Sherman, Lonné, Treger, Helquist, Krupnik) focused on workers' compensation, disability retirement and the

significance of proper care and preparation for retirement.

Episode 2 centers on an informative interview with Sandra Croxton (justice deputy for L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger) covering a range of topics, including budgetary priorities, public safety and LASD staffing levels.

These videos are designed to provide an in-depth look at the benefits and issues impacting PPOA members. Links to both videos are posted at PPOA.com. 



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STAR & SHIELD | JANUARY 2026

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STAY TUNED

COMING
IN MARCH

- **2026 PPOA Scholarship Applications**
- **Retirement Planning Workshop for PPOA Members**



Look for details in the **PPOA Week in Review**
email every Saturday and in the February
issue of ***Star & Shield***!

Well Done, Sergeant Murguia

Congratulations to LADA Bureau of Investigation Sergeant Edgar Murguia on completing the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute Program. Pictured from left to right are Lieutenant/PPOA Board Member Jay Chapman, Captain Jeff Bishop, Sergeant Murguia and Assistant Chief Bill Frayeh. 



I WANT TO PUT THE “ACTION” BACK IN POLITICAL ACTION!

PAC Plus is a political action committee of PPOA members focused primarily on establishing a stronger, more effective presence in county and state politics. PAC Plus expenditures will target elections and legislation that could potentially impact the safety, livelihood and careers of PPOA members.

Please complete and send this form to:

PPOA

188 E. Arrow Highway
San Dimas, CA 91773

This form can also be completed online at:

PPOA.com/members/political-action-committee-pac-plus/pac-application

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

I authorize the following amount to be deducted monthly (beyond regular union dues) for PPOA's PAC Plus program:

\$5

\$10

\$20

Other

Member Name: _____

Phone: _____

Employee Number: _____

Signature: _____

Email (personal, non-County address only):

Date: _____



RETIREE EVENTS



HR 218 Qualification

January 18 from
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
PDC (Wayside) Range
Info: Deputy Phil Abner,
pabner54@gmail.com

Lakewood Annual Retiree Luncheon

January 28 at 11 a.m.
Chili's, Lakewood
RSVP: George Boswell,
gcbIngbch@charter.net

Annual LASD Retiree Roundup

March 29 – April 1
Riverside Resort &
Casino, Laughlin, NV
Info: lasdretired.org

Desert Heat Retirees Luncheon

First Wednesday of
each month at 11 a.m.
Elks Lodge, Lake Havasu
Info: Lnx1993@yahoo.com

Rogue Valley Retiree Lunch

Last Wednesday of each
month at 11 a.m.
Grants Pass Golf Club
Grants Pass, OR
Info: michaelbuschke@charter.net

Temple Station Monthly Alumni Luncheon

Last Thursday of each month
(except Nov./Dec.) at 11:30 a.m.
Peppertree Café, Glendora
Info: ricksummers@verizon.net



MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association is committed to continuing a "Tradition of Success" in serving a satisfied membership through an effective and expanding professional association. We are a proactive and imaginative organization working in union with employers and other professional groups for necessary changes in policies, laws and legislation that are conducive to the well-being of our members. We will promote the professional interests of our members and the law enforcement community by protecting and enhancing their individual and collective rights.

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PPOA Members Spotted on the Socials

We are proud to see PPOA members and their partners being acknowledged for their professionalism and dedication. *Images courtesy of social media.*

 **indlasd** ...



indlasd Congrats to Lieutenant Gonzalez on 25 years of service 🌟



 **lasd_lhs** ...



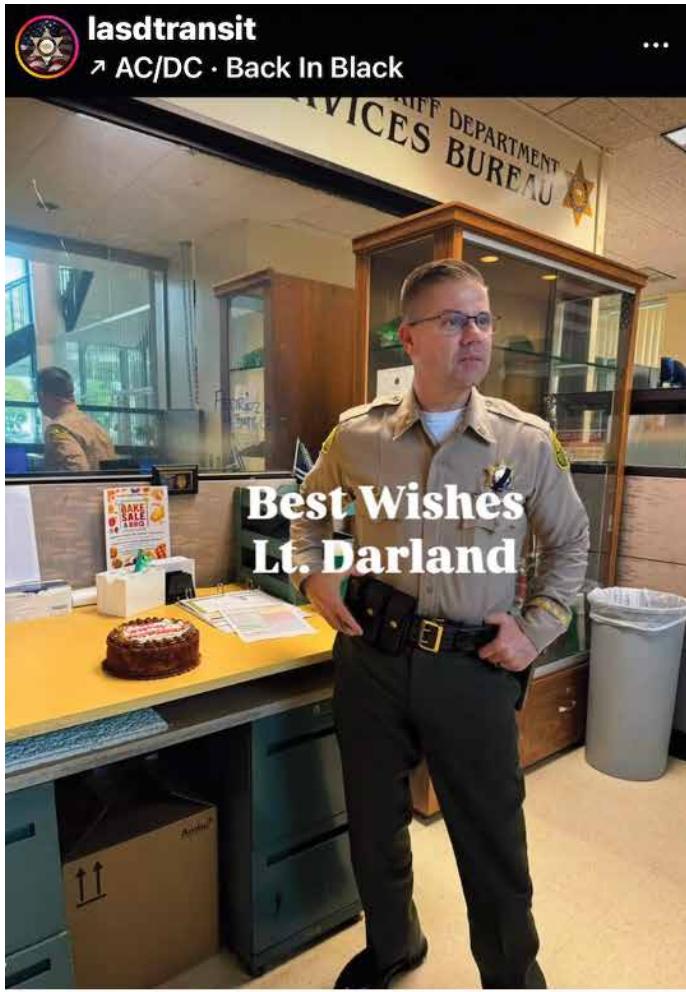
lasd_lhs Congratulations Ann-Margaret and thank you for 35 years of dedicated service to the residents of LA County as a dispatcher and timekeeper. We couldn't do it without you!!!

 **Supervisor Kathryn Barger** • Follow
October 14 • 3

One of my favorite weekly traditions is having a local veteran start off our Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Timothy Lovitt, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Santa Clarita resident, for joining us and for your service to our country and our County.

 **@LACOUNTYBOS**



lasdtransit 🎉 Congratulations, Lieutenant Darland! 🎉

Transit Services Bureau would like to congratulate Lieutenant Darland as he moves on to greener pastures at [@lasdtraining](#) Training Bureau.

Thank you for your leadership, professionalism, and dedication to TSB. Your commitment has made a lasting impact, and you will truly be missed.

Wishing you continued success on your new journey! 🌟



PPOA Shines Spotlight on Members in First Annual Awards Ceremony

This Association was extremely proud to shine the spotlight on members last month at the first annual PPOA Membership Awards Ceremony. The event in Pasadena provided an opportunity to acknowledge very worthy public servants for their dedication, bravery and leadership. The following eight PPOA members received awards after being selected from dozens of nominations:

- Sergeant Wyatt Waldron, Military Service Award
- Sergeant Pedro Magdaleno, Bravery Award
- Sergeant Ryan Kearns, Bravery Award
- Sergeant Mike Chea, Bravery Award

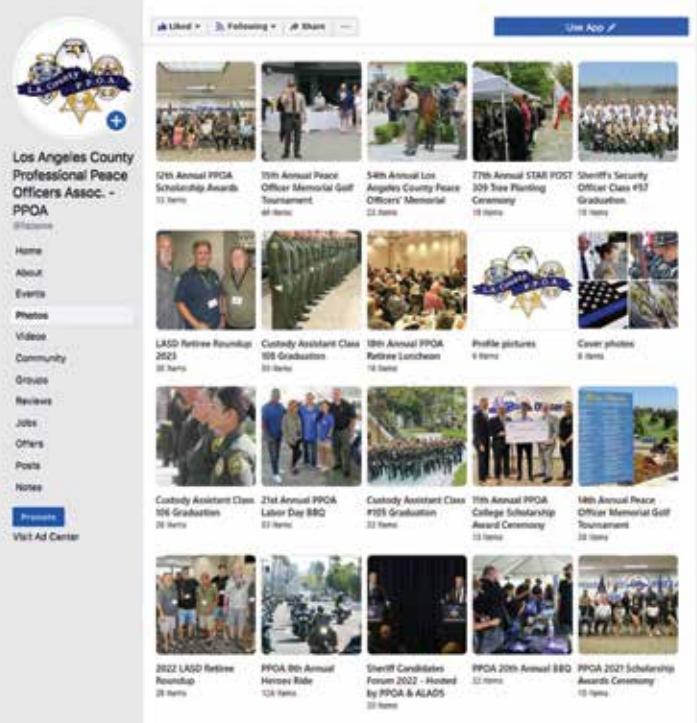
- Senior Criminalist Learden Matthies, Exceptional Service Award
- Law Enforcement Technician Suzanne Talley, Exceptional Service Award
- LADA Sergeant Jose Cisneros, Distinguished Service Award
- Senior Criminalist Jessie Pettet, Distinguished Service Award

The full photo album from the ceremony can be viewed on the LAPPOA Facebook page. *Photos by Greg Torres/PPOA.*





FOLLOW LAPPOA ON FACEBOOK



In addition to breaking news and announcements, the “LAPPOA” Facebook page features more than 2,000 photos and videos from events, graduations, memorials, dedications, ceremonies and other noteworthy occasions. We’re honored to document the diligent work of PPOA members and meaningful moments for our law enforcement family.

www.facebook.com/LAPPOA



More Than 100 Retirees Gather for 21st Annual PPOA Luncheon

PPOA was proud to host our 21st annual Retiree Luncheon at the Sheraton Fairplex in November. Per tradition, we were particularly honored to extend a special Veterans Day tribute to the many military veterans in attendance. Union Board and staff members were also on hand to enjoy a memorable afternoon with the more than 100 retirees who attended. The full photo album from the luncheon can be viewed on the LAPPOA Facebook page. *Photos by Greg Torres/PPOA.*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

These events and more can be found on PPOA's online calendar at PPOA.com. Do you know of a Department-related event we can help promote? Email details to info@PPOA.com.

January 14

PPOA Board of Directors Meeting

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

San Dimas

Members are invited to attend with RSVP: (323) 261-3010

January 19

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The PPOA office will be closed in honor of the County holiday.

February 11

PPOA Board of Directors Meeting

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

San Dimas

Members are invited to attend with RSVP: (323) 261-3010

February 16

Presidents Day

The PPOA office will be closed in honor of the County holiday.

February 24

PPOA Delegates Meeting

Luminarias, Monterey Park

Eligible delegates: Please RSVP to (323) 261-3010



PPOA Committees and Staff

★ 2026 STANDING COMMITTEES

Associations

➤ Chairman Johnson

Awards

➤ Chairman Ramos

Bylaws

➤ Chairman Weber

Communications

➤ Chairman Kasabayan

Delegates

➤ Chairman Walker

Election Update

➤ Chairman Walker

Finance Committee

➤ Chairwoman Kato

Insurance

➤ Chairman Lee

Legislative

➤ Chairman Johnson

Membership

➤ Chairman Ramos

Retiree Liaison

➤ Chairman Schallert

Scholarship

➤ Chairwoman Rodriguez

Star & Shield Foundation

➤ Chairman Johnson

Unit 612 Contract Negotiations

➤ Chairman Johnson

Unit 614 Contract Negotiations

➤ Chairman Lee

Unit 621 Contract Negotiations

➤ Chairman Walker

Unit 631/632 Contract Negotiations

➤ Chairwoman Kato

★ STAFF MEMBERS

Wayne Quint Jr.

Executive Director

Richard Escalante

Field Representative

Clare Franco

Administrative Assistant

Violet P. Moreno

Administrative Assistant

Dave Ladjevic

Labor Representative

Mark Sanchez

Labor Representative

Shannon Schreck

Administrative Assistant

★ LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

Lang, Hansen, Giroux & Kidane

Visit PPOA.com to read about PPOA's position on legislative bills proposed in the current session.

Financial Fresh Start: Top New Year's Resolutions for Credit Union Members in 2026

As members of credit unions enter 2026, setting well-defined financial resolutions can lead to greater financial stability, confidence and long-term success. Recent surveys reveal that financial goals are now almost ubiquitous among those planning resolutions for 2026, with saving money standing out as the most common objective.¹

Credit unions, as not-for-profit organizations, are uniquely positioned to support members in this process by offering tailored products, education and planning tools that help turn intentions into measurable results.

STRENGTHEN EMERGENCY SAVINGS FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY

A financial commitment for 2026 should be to build or expand an emergency savings fund. Having accessible savings helps members manage unexpected expenses without resorting to high-interest debt.

- Credit union tools — such as designated emergency savings accounts and automated transfer features — make regular contributions easier and more consistent.
- Prepare for unforeseen costs with liquid savings. One rule of thumb is to try and build three to six months' worth of savings that are dedicated toward living expenses and reserved in a specific account.

Why it matters: An emergency fund enhances resilience against job loss, medical bills or vehicle repairs, and reduces reliance on credit products during financial stress.

CREATE AND ADHERE TO A REALISTIC BUDGET

A realistic budget allows members to allocate income intentionally toward essential expenses, savings and debt reduction.

- Budgeting is frequently recommended by credit union financial guides as a core component of financial wellness.²
- Members are encouraged to review past spending habits to identify opportunities to adjust. Utilize credit union education resources or budgeting tools offered through digital banking platforms.

Best practice: Apply simple frameworks (for example, documenting monthly income versus expenses) and revisit the budget regularly to stay aligned with evolving goals.

PRIORITIZE STRATEGIC DEBT MANAGEMENT

Reducing high-interest debt is frequently cited by credit union members as a critical goal for the new year.

- The federal credit union financial education initiative *mycreditunion.gov* outlines ways to approach debt management, including listing outstanding balances, prioritizing repayment and adjusting expenses to support extra payments toward high-interest obligations.³

- Credit unions often offer access to credit counseling programs or members-only debt-consolidation options at favorable rates.

Outcome: Faster debt repayment not only saves on interest, but also improves credit health and frees up income for savings and investment goals.

IMPROVE FINANCIAL LITERACY AND USE CREDIT UNION EDUCATION RESOURCES

Ongoing education empowers members to make informed decisions — from spending and borrowing to investing and long-range planning.

- Credit union education libraries and counseling services consistently offer workshops, one-on-one guidance, and online savings and budgeting content.
- National resources, like the Money Basics Guide to Budgeting and Savings from *mycreditunion.gov*, provide practical lessons for individuals and educators on managing personal finances.⁴

Member tip: Try to attend at least one credit union financial workshop for 2026.

AUTOMATE SAVINGS AND PAYMENTS TO BUILD POSITIVE HABITS

Automation is a powerful strategy that helps members follow through on their financial intentions without relying on willpower alone.

Credit unions encourage automated savings plans where funds are transferred regularly from checking to savings or investment accounts. If you have not already set this up, speak to a POPA representative to learn how to get started.

Scheduled payments for bills and debt obligations help avoid late fees, protect credit scores and streamline financial routines.

Pro tip: Set up automated contributions based on pay dates to ensure consistency and reduce the hassle of manual money management.

As 2026 gets underway, credit union members can approach the new year with clarity and confidence by focusing on sound financial resolutions. Strengthening emergency savings, maintaining a sound budget, reducing debt, financial education and embracing automation are all steps that align with credit union values of member-focused financial empowerment. 

REFERENCES

- 1 [ipsos.com](https://www.ipsos.com)
- 2 [mycreditunion.gov](https://www.mycreditunion.gov)
- 3 [mycreditunion.gov](https://www.mycreditunion.gov)
- 4 [mycreditunion.gov](https://www.mycreditunion.gov)

END OF WATCH

PPOA extends our sincere condolences to the families of the following PPOA members who passed away in September and October 2025:

Retired Deputy

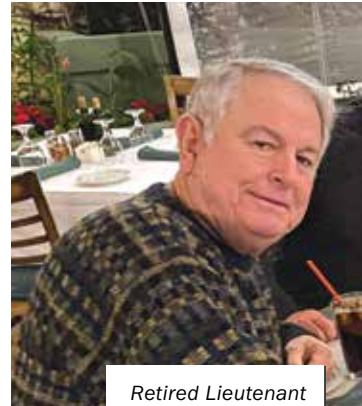
Steven Jimenez

EOW: September 6, 2025

Began career with L.A. County Marshal's Department in 1975
Rio Hondo Academy Class #31
LASD ret. 2003
Last assignment: Citrus Court
U.S. Army veteran



Retired Deputy
Steven Jimenez
(EOW: 9/6/25)



Retired Lieutenant
Steve Maggiora
(EOW: 9/18/25)

Retired Lieutenant

Steve Maggiora

EOW: September 18, 2025

LASD 1973-2010
Academy Class #166
Last assignment: PDC South
U.S. Army veteran

Retired Lieutenant

Joe Jones

EOW: September 25, 2025

Hired in 1967
Retired in 2004 from Office of Public Safety
U.S. Marine Corps veteran



Retired Sergeant
Richard Rosito
(EOW: 10/5/25)

Retired Sergeant

Richard Rosito

EOW: October 5, 2025

LASD 1983-2003
Last assignment: Metro
U.S. Marine Corps veteran

**ATTENTION
PPOA
MEMBERS**

We need your personal (non-Department) email address! If you have not received an email blast from PPOA in the last 30 days (we send at least one per week), that means:

- 1** Your email address is not on file with PPOA, or
- 2** We have only your County email address (PPOA sends membership-wide email blasts to personal addresses only). Either way, we need your personal (non-Department) email address so that we can disseminate important news to you as quickly as possible. Please email your address to info@PPOA.com and reference "email updates" in the subject line.

By Bob Giroux

Lang, Hansen, Giroux & Kidane, PPOA Legislative Representatives

California's 2026 Landscape

As California heads into 2026, prepare for a year defined by a gubernatorial election, major ballot fights and a challenging state budget outlook. November's special election and the passage of Proposition 50 have already reshaped the state's political terrain, and more changes are coming as legislative deadlines approach and campaigns begin to take shape.

REDISTRICTING FALLOUT AND POLITICAL REALIGNMENTS

Proposition 50, approved by more than 64% of voters, has redrawn California's congressional districts for the next three election cycles. The effects have been immediate. In Northern California, the San Joaquin Valley and the Inland Empire, new lines are setting off political "musical chairs" as incumbents evaluate whether to run in new districts, seek other offices or retire altogether. With the filing deadline for the 2026 primary fast approaching, these shifts will affect not only federal races, but also state legislative and local contests. For PPOA, this means new potential allies — and new uncertainties — as district changes introduce unfamiliar constituencies and recalibrate political priorities.

A WIDE-OPEN GOVERNOR'S RACE

The 2026 gubernatorial contest remains fluid. U.S. Senator Alex Padilla's decision not to run has significantly widened the field. With no dominant Democrat at the top of the ticket, the race is poised to center more heavily on state-level issues — including affordability, homelessness and crime, just to name a few. Former Congresswoman Katie Porter, former Attorney General Xavier Becerra, environmental advocate Tom Steyer and Congressman Eric Swalwell are among the more prominent Democratic contenders. On the Republican side, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco and businessman Steve Hilton are working to consolidate conservative support. Polls show roughly 40% of voters still undecided — an unusually high figure that underscores just how volatile this race remains.

TWO-YEAR BILLS IN 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

As the Legislature enters the second year of its two-year session, previously introduced bills face strict survival rules. Any "two-year bill" must pass out of its house of origin by January 31 of the second year, or it is automatically dead for the session. Bills that meet this threshold then move through policy committees, fiscal review and floor votes in the opposite house under normal deadlines. Because these bills face accelerated timelines and early hurdles, January often becomes a high-stakes



period of negotiation and advocacy as stakeholders work to keep priority legislation alive.

BALLOT MEASURES WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACTS

Well-funded interest groups are beginning to file proposed initiatives for the 2026 statewide ballot. While not directly related to public safety policy, there are two measures with indirect implications for local government and the municipal services cities and counties provide.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA) is actively working to qualify a proposed ballot initiative that received an official title and summary from the attorney general over the summer. Per the title, the initiative constitutional amendment "Limits ability of voters to raise revenues for local government services" by raising the vote approval threshold requirement for such ballot measures from a simple majority to two-thirds. The measure also limits real estate transfer taxes in charter cities and overturns existing voter-approved property-related taxes that do not comply with these requirements two years after the measure is enacted. The fiscal note by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) that will appear on the ballot flags up to \$2 billion in revenue losses, primarily to charter cities, and potential future revenue reductions in what local governments would otherwise collect due to the higher voter approval threshold.

A related measure that the Legislature previously placed on the 2024 statewide ballot, but subsequently moved to 2026, is ACA 13 (Ward). This Assembly constitutional amendment would require measures that increase voter approval thresholds to be passed by the same threshold. For example, the HJTA



STAR & SHIELD

Congratulations to the following PPOA members for winning the “Find the Hidden Word” contest in *Star & Shield*. If your name is listed, that means your entry was drawn as one of the winners for that month’s issue. Please call Greg Torres at (323) 261-3010 to claim your \$100 check.

CONTEST WINNERS

\$100 PRIZE WINNERS

(October 2025 issue — the hidden word appeared on page 28)

Lauren Gil de Montes, Senior Criminalist
Robert Jensen, Sergeant
Robert Petitt, retired member

By Justin D. Feldman, Esq.
Senior Partner, Lewis, Marenstein, Wicke, Sherwin & Lee

Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Coverage

A PERSONAL SAFETY NET IN THE EVENT OF AN ON-DUTY TRAFFIC COLLISION

Unfortunately, drivers who are careless enough to cause a collision by running into an on-duty deputy sheriff often give no thought to obtaining liability insurance adequate enough to fully compensate the victims of their negligence. Indeed, as a police officer, you are probably aware of the fact that a large number of drivers are operating their vehicles without any insurance, while another large number of drivers only have the state-required minimum coverage of \$30,000 per person/\$60,000 per accident.

So, you ask, other than enforcing the insurance requirements as necessary, what else can you do to help protect yourself from the consequences of falling victim to one of these insurance scofflaws? As a law enforcement officer, you should know that, oftentimes, your own uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage will follow you while you are on duty. This means that if you are unfortunate

enough to have an on-duty traffic collision, you will likely have the ability to make a claim against your own uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage *in addition* to pursuing workers' compensation benefits. This claim is made without impact to your insurance premium, as it is extra coverage that you pay for so that your carrier will "step into the shoes" of the insurance that an at-fault driver *should* have purchased.

Generally, in California, a driver purchasing automobile liability insurance has the ability to purchase uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage in an amount up to and including the coverage limits of their liability policy. As an attorney with significant experience in representing police officers who are injured by a careless driver, I cannot overemphasize the importance of having adequate uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage. Far too often, I am faced with the representation of a client who has suffered serious injuries, but is unable to recover against the driver who caused those injuries because that driver does not carry adequate liability insurance, and my client did not purchase the uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage to provide a safety net for this situation. Keep in mind that uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage covers damages that workers' compensation does not, such as lost overtime and general damages (pain, suffering, emotional distress, etc.), to name just a few.

With the above in mind, I strongly recommend purchasing uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage that is, at bare minimum, \$250,000 per person/\$500,000 per incident. More coverage, including the purchase of an additional "umbrella" or "excess" policy with an uninsured/underinsured motorist endorsement, is optimal in the event of a truly catastrophic and/or career-ending injury. This typically requires the payment of a relatively minimal premium when compared to the protection and peace of mind this purchase will provide to you and your family.

Please keep in mind that this article speaks in general terms, and that the law in making a claim against an uninsured/underinsured motorist policy is complex, with exacting requirements dependent, at least in part, on the language contained within each individual policy, which must be followed exactly in order to present a valid claim. Therefore, if you have been in a traffic accident or have questions regarding your specific situation, you should immediately contact an attorney with experience in representing peace officers, and in making uninsured/underinsured motorist claims. 



PPOA Political Action Committee Annual Notification

Any member who does not wish to contribute to LAPPOA's PAC, Independent Expenditure Committee or Issues Committee may so designate by checking the statement below and mailing this statement to LAPPOA at:

188 E. Arrow Hwy.,
San Dimas, CA 91773

"I, _____
(member name, employee number),
do not want any of my LAPPOA membership dues used for political purposes. Note:
Membership dues will not be reduced for any member who does not want their membership dues used for political purposes."

S&W SHIELD**9MM/SIG P229 9MM**

S&W: CA model w/ Kydex holster and 4 mags: \$450. Sig: CA model w/ Kydex holster and 3 mags: \$850. (323) 597-6059. (0724)

ROSE HILLS PLOT FOR SALE

Rose Hills (Whittier) cemetery plot located in the Garden of Prayers near the main entrance. \$15,000 or OBO. Call (909) 243-3002 or email rjramirez0618@gmail.com. (0824)

1965 PORSCHE SPEEDSTER REPLICA FOR SALE

Convertible, replica. 2-door, black with tan interior and tan top. 4-speed manual transmission, 1600cc, build of a Volkswagen Karmann Ghia chassis. Asking price \$25,000. Contact (626) 484-8301 or mianico5@gmail.com. (0924)

BASS BOAT

'08 Tracker Pro Team 17.5, Merc. 75, Mtr. guide t/m, Lowrance electronics, new upholstery and cover, lots of extras, low hours. \$12,500. Contact Wayne at (626) 422-0555 or email waw296@gmail.com. (0925)

HUGE FURNISHED STUDIO/BEDROOM IN QUARTZ HILL, CA

Queen bed, flat screen TV, Wi-Fi and streaming services, kitchenette with sink, refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, window A/C, power recliner, large bathroom with shower. \$1,250/month, including utilities. Contact MikeMartinez2000@gmail.com or (408) 693-9404. (0225)

RIVERFRONT VACATION RENTAL

Stunning riverfront views from a Parker Strip, Arizona, 4-bedroom 2-bath home, featuring a full kitchen, ice maker, washer-dryer, boat ramp, private boat and jet ski dock, and much more. First responder and military discount. Call Robert at (858) 688-3670 or Chuck at (323) 470-9827, or email rmos@mosmag.com. (0125)

1999 PORSCHE "911" CARRERA

2-door convertible, black/black, 6 cylinder, manual transmission. Asking price \$18,000 OBO. Contact tiffanyjoiner26@gmail.com. (0725)



PPOA classified ads are free and available only to PPOA members

(one per month, 25 words max). Private party only, no business ads

allowed. Send your ad to: *Star & Shield* Editor, 188 E. Arrow Highway,

San Dimas, CA 91773 or email to gtorres@PPOA.com.

New submissions are added on a first-come, first-served basis each

issue. Please send within first week of each month to ensure timely

inclusion. Sellers are encouraged to list price of each item listed. No work

numbers or County email addresses may be used in ads. Submissions

must be made in writing, not over the phone. Ads run for three months.

PPOA is not responsible for any claims made in a classified ad.

TIRES/RIMS FOR SALE

Four BF Goodrich (white letter) radial tires mounted on American Racing mag rims. Two 215-60-15 and two 255-60-15 tires – 3 years old with only 1,000 miles. \$850 or best offer. Call Richard at (562) 858-8936 and leave message. (1024)

ATTENTION WOODWORKERS

Shapeoko XXL carbide 3D router. It cuts wood, plastic, aluminum and more. Asking \$1,500. Leave a message at (626) 392-8507. (0425)



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We have successfully represented over 35,000 safety members.
Our representation continues long after your case is concluded since your right to lifetime medical care may always be challenged.

DISABILITY RETIREMENT FOR SAFETY MEMBERS

We have a pension department that specializes in this area and have successfully obtained disability pensions for *thousands* of safety personnel under PERS, County 1937 Retirement Act and other county and city systems.

PERSONAL INJURY

Our personal injury department has successfully litigated or tried over 5000 claims for automobile injuries, products liability, medical malpractice and other negligence areas.

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Making a false or fraudulent workers' compensation claim is a felony subject to up to five years in prison or a fine up to \$50,000.00 or double the value of the fraud, whichever is greater, or both imprisonment and fine.