



Bonnie M. Dumanis

On the Record



San Diego County District Attorney

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DA's Annual Consumer Protection Day Another Big Success

It's not every day active seniors sit back and let someone else tell them what to do, but that's exactly what nearly one-thousand of them did at the second annual Consumer Protection Day event held at the Town and Country Resort and Hotel.

District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis hosted the event while former con-turned-minister and FBI informant Barry Minkow was the keynote speaker. Ten News Troubleshooter Marti Emerald moderated a panel on Identity Theft that featured some of San Diego's top experts on the crime.

KOGO's Money In the Morning Host George Chamberlin hosted the afternoon session that covered several topics including Predatory Lending, Charitable Fraud and Elder Abuse.



DA Dumanis & Insurance Commissioner at the
2nd Consumer Protection Day

Forty different federal, state and local government and non-profit exhibitors were also available to answer questions.

The event was co-sponsored by San Diego County Supervisors Chairman Bill Horn and Supervisor Pam Slater-Price. Also present, Department of Consumer Affairs Director Charlene Zettel.

Also helping to make the event possible, the County's Office of Aging and Independence Services, AARP and Elder Law and Advocacy.

If you would like a DVD of the event of the session, visit us at www.sdcca.org.



Deputy District Attorney Keith Burt, director of the CATCH Team, talks with a consumer after the Identity Theft panel discussion.

The names are different, but the stories are usually the same. Someone steals their identity, ruins their credit and causes big problems that can sometimes last for years. Identity theft, as most of us already know, is the fastest growing crime and that's the reason Consumer Protection event organizers decided to make it **the** topic for the morning panel discussion. The panel featured state and local experts, including the Director of the District Attorney's Computer and Technology Crime High Tech Response Task Force, Keith Burt, who took time after the panel to answer questions from concerned citizens.

Identity Theft Panel left to right; Deputy DA Keith Burt, Director of Calif., Dept. Of Consumer Affairs, Charlene Zettel, Director of the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, Beth Givens, Deputy City Attorney Consumer Protection Unit, Cindy Davis.

Tips To Protect Your Identity

- Review your monthly credit card bills
- Opt out of pre-approved credit offers (1-800-353-0809)
 - Never give out your personal information over the phone to someone you don't know

Call For Copies Of Your Credit Report

Trans Union
800-680-8800
www.tuc.com

Experian
888-397-3742
www.experian.com

Equifax
800-685-1111
www.equifax.com



**For more information on
Identity Theft visit the DA's
website
[www.sdca.org/protecting/
identity.php](http://www.sdca.org/protecting/identity.php)**

California's Department of Consumer Affairs Top Five Issues To Protect Your Hard Earned Money

- **“Phishers” Trying to Trick You Into Giving Up Personal Information:** Don’t get hooked by scam artists when they phone or e-mail you to “confirm” account numbers and passwords.
- **Credit Card / Debit Card Fraudsters Looking to Rip You Off:** Keep “skimmers” and PIN snatchers from stealing your credit or cracking into your checking account. Be aware of the customer protections offered for each type of card, and check account statements frequently.
- **Tax Refund Anticipation Loans That Gouge You With High Interest:** Make sure your tax preparer complies with the new California law that protects consumers. Tax preparers must advise customers these loans are not “instant tax refunds” and disclose details on costs.
- **Charity Scammers Taking Advantage of Your Generosity:** The holidays or disasters like Hurricane Katrina can increase bogus charity pitches, but consumers should always be wary of high-emotion, high-pressure solicitations throughout the year.
- **Unlicensed Individuals Posing as Licensed Professionals or Businesses:** Help shine a light on the underground economy by always checking that professionals and businesses are properly licensed.



More information about each of these Hot California Consumer Issues and tips on how to keep from getting burned can be found in a related [fact sheet](#) available on the Department of Consumer Affairs Web site, www.consumer.ca.gov.

You can also get more information on scams and frauds on the District Attorney's Website. Visit us @ www.sdca.org/protecting/consumertips.php

DA CASE FILES

In the past couple of months, we have had some very good results in the courtroom.

Adrian Camacho, 30, was sentenced to death by a Superior Court Judge for killing a rookie Oceanside police officer during a routine traffic stop in 2003. Camacho ambushed Officer Tony Zeppetella in the parking lot of an Oceanside credit union. Zepetella was 27 years old. Camacho is an undocumented immigrant, a gang member and was described in court as a drug dealer. A jury convicted him of first degree murder. Zepetella is survived by his wife, Jamie and his toddler son, Jakob.

Terry Samples, 47, pleaded guilty to five felony charges including conspiracy to steal from Vista based investigators in a home buying and investment program. As an officer of the First Latino Group he offered people a 20-percent return on investments and a program wherein investors could buy a home for a start-up cost of \$7,500. No homes were ever built. Five other defendants are awaiting trial. Samples faces three years in prison.

David Rust, 56, of Oceanside was sentenced to 25 years in prison for molesting a pre-teen girl who was spending the night at his home. The judge said that Rust "was an extreme danger to society." Rust entered the room where the young girl was staying and molested her. The girl's mother and the defendant's family had been longtime friends. The next morning, the victim told her mother and they reported the crime to authorities. Rust left the state, but was later captured.

Shane McClung, 22, of Valley Center pleaded guilty to setting three brush fires in North County, including one that burned 35 acres near Harrah's Rincon Casino last year. McClung was arrested shortly after authorities spotted him near a fire on the Rincon Indian Reservation last October. He later confessed to setting that fire. As part of the plea agreement McClung will have to register with law enforcement wherever he lives for the rest of life.

Clarence Omar Johnson Jr., 22, and **Christopher Daniel Beebe**, 20, were sentenced to seven years in prison for their part in an armed residential robbery. **Julius Jay Betts**, 17, also pleaded guilty to robbery charges and **Chavon Marie Murphy**, 19, pleaded guilty to residential burglary. The four planned and executed the home invasion of an El Cajon man who survived being shot in the face.

Faustino Leon Hernandez, 17, was sentenced to 21 years in prison for stabbing to death an Escondido teenager. Hernandez, was prosecuted as an adult. Hernandez pleaded guilty to stabbing 16 year old Rene Chavez-Vasquez. Hernandez pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter as part of a plea agreement. Hernandez and a companion, who also faces prison time, told authorities they went out that evening to seek revenge for recent attacks against their friends.

Damian Rocca, 28, of San Diego has been sentenced to 15 years to life for suffocating his 15 month old son. Rocca, who has the mental capacity of a 12 year old, told authorities he reportedly killed his son because he wanted to know what it felt like to kill someone. Rocca pleaded guilty to second degree murder last August. The mother of the baby has temporarily lost custody of her three year old who is currently staying with relatives.

Norman Fullbright, 27, of Oceanside was sentenced to 53 years to life in prison for shooting to death his former girlfriend while her young daughters hid in horror. Fullbright was convicted of first-degree murder for killing Rose Pradd whose daughters, both 11, were inside the apartment at the time of the shooting. The two girls testified during the trial that it was Fullbright who did the killing in 2003. Fullbright must serve 50 years before he is eligible for parole.

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