

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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06-740

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RELEASE DATE

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

Santa Ynez Resident, Gregory Scott Ray, Convicted of Numerous Sexual Assault Charges Upon Eight Victims Between 2007-2018

Re: *People vs. Gregory Scott Ray*, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case Number 19CR03322

On June 14, 2024, a Santa Maria Jury found 57-year old Gregory Scott Ray of Santa Ynez guilty of numerous sexual assault charges upon 8 victims, spanning between the years of 2007 – 2018.

The jury convicted the defendant of 14 counts of Lewd and Lascivious Acts in violation of PC 288(c)(1); four counts of Sodomy of Person Under 18, in violation of PC 286(b)(1); 13 counts of Oral Copulation of Person Under 18, in violation of PC 288a(b)(1); four counts of Lewd or Lascivious Act Upon Child, in violation of PC 288(a); one count of Sodomy of Minor Age 14 or Older by Use of Force, in violation of PC 286(c)(2)(C); and one count of Attempted Sexual Penetration of Person Under 18, in violation of PC 664/289(h).

The jury also found true that the Defendant committed sex crimes upon multiple victims, within the meaning of Penal Code sections 667.61(b), (e)(4), (j)(2). Pursuant to Evidence Code section 1108, three uncharged John Doe's testified about the sexual abuse the Defendant perpetrated upon them.

The Defendant met several of his victims through his sons, who attended local schools in the Santa Ynez Valley. Some victims remembered the Defendant as a chaperone on their elementary school field trips, providing him access to young students. The Defendant used his roles within the community, such as coaching little league baseball and being actively involved with the high school volleyball team, to meet and exploit underage boys. Defendant also used his employment as a yearbook distributor to give him further access to teenage boys. The Defendant additionally used same-sex dating applications, like Grinder and Adam4Adam to meet underage boys. Some of the boys he met on these sites were as young as thirteen.

The defendant's crimes were exposed after John Doe 1 confided in a friend who then reported the misconduct to a high school principal, who in turn contacted the police.

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch acknowledges the bravery and courage of the victims who came forward and testified against the perpetrator. Their strength in facing such challenges is commendable and serves as an inspiration. Special recognition is also extended to the North County Rape Crisis Center and its Director, Ann McCarty, for their unwavering support to victims throughout this process. A heartfelt thanks is expressed to the dedicated individuals who played crucial roles in the investigation and prosecution: Biannet Garcia Vargas, Victim Advocate at the Santa Barbara County DA's office, provided vital assistance and support to the victims. Detective Jason Vasquez of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office demonstrated exceptional diligence in gathering evidence and ensuring thorough investigation. Wayne Flick, Investigator with the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's office, contributed significantly to the case with his expertise and dedication. Deputy District Attorney Lindsey Bittner exhibited professionalism and commitment in leading the prosecution of this case with diligence and integrity.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 24, 2024, in Department 6 at 1:30 pm before Honorable Judge Kristy Imel. The Defendant is facing a maximum sentence of 39 years followed by 125-life.

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