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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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District Attorney's Cannabis Enforcement Prosecution Program Quarterly Update
Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Q3 (January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026)

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office prosecutes cannabis-related offenses and provides investigative support for such matters throughout the County.

Investigative resources were utilized to support ongoing open cases by conducting follow-up activities, locating individuals, gathering information, and assisting with case-related investigative efforts. These efforts helped strengthen case development, support prosecution preparation, and improve the overall effectiveness of investigations.

The District Attorney's Office is limited in the information that can be disclosed regarding cases that are pending final adjudication or have reached final resolution. However, the following section provides a summary of recent cases in which the Office has undertaken prosecutorial and investigative action. There are twenty-four juvenile cases, but the District Attorney's Office cannot discuss those cases.

The People v. Judd Edelstein, SBSC No. 25CR01678

Mr. Edelstein was charged with maintaining an illegal cannabis grow resulting in a felony violation of Health and Safety Code section 11358(d)(3)(C) due to accompanying Fish and Game Code violations. Mr. Edelstein was also charged with additional offenses including Sale of Marijuana Across State Lines, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11360(a)(3)(D).

The case resolved through a plea to a felony violation of Health and Safety Code section 11358(a)(3)(C). Sentencing was continued for one year. If the defendant pays all fines and restitution and commits no further illegal cannabis sales during the year, the court will reduce the conviction to a misdemeanor.

The defendant agreed to forfeit all seized funds and property as part of the plea agreement.

The People v. Alexis Vazquez-Guzman, SBSC No. 25CR03093

Mr. Vazquez-Guzman was charged with Possession of Marijuana for Sale Related to the Sale to Minors, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11359(c)(3).

The case resolved with a plea as charged, as a felony, with probation and asset forfeiture totaling \$37,597. Sentencing was continued for one year. If the defendant commits no new criminal

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offenses, including any cannabis-related sales, the court will reduce the conviction to a misdemeanor. At the time of writing this report, the defendant has not been arrested for any new crimes. Sentencing is currently set for June 15, 2026.

Despite the seriousness of the charge, this disposition was appropriate given the difficulty in securing parental consent for the minor victims to cooperate with the prosecution.

The People v. Jordan and Jonathan Alvarez Tostado Rodriguez, SBSC No. 24CR06375

The defendants in this case were charged with a number of crimes, both individual and separately, including Sale of Marijuana Across State Lines in violation of HS 11360(a)(3)(D), as well as Money Laundering, in violation of Penal Code (PC) 186.10(a)(1).

The defendants both entered guilty pleas to HS 11360(a)(3)(D), a felony, and admitted a circumstance in aggravation that the crime involved a large quantity of contraband. They were granted probation. Admitting the circumstance in aggravation allows the court to sentence them to the upper term if they were to violate any term of probation.

The People v. John Wayne Wyatt and Salvador Castanos, SBSC No. 25CR04730

Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Castanos are charged with Manufacture of Honey Oil in violation of HS 11379.6, as well as a conspiracy to commit the same. Additionally, Mr. Wyatt is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in violation of PC 29800.

This case has been discussed with the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

The People v. Angela Nicole Gonzales, SBSC No. 25CR02127

Ms. Gonzales is charged with Transporting for Sale outside the state over 31 pounds of cannabis, in violation of HS 11360(a)(3)(D).

The defendant was placed on pretrial diversion by the court for a period of six months. Terms of the diversion include search and seizure terms for drug paraphernalia, non-prescribed controlled drugs, and marijuana. She must forfeit all seized items and obey all laws.

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

The People v. Kyle Joshua Price, SBSC No. 25CR08471

Mr. Price is charged with multiple felony offenses, including Possession of Marijuana for Sale (Health and Safety Code section 11359(b)), Possession of a Controlled Substance (Health and Safety Code section 11377(a)), Possession of Drugs or Drug Paraphernalia in a Jail Facility

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(Penal Code section 4573.8), Grand Theft of Personal Property (Penal Code section 487(a)), and Indecent Exposure (Penal Code section 314(1)).

The defendant applied for mental health diversion under Penal Code Section 1001.036. The court granted his application.

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

The People v. Paul Christopher Ruiz, SBSC No. 25CR01769

Mr. Ruiz is charged with Sale or Transportation of More Than 28.5 Grams of Marijuana or More Than 4 Grams of Concentrated Cannabis, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11360(a)(3)(D), and Possession of Marijuana for Sale, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11359(b).

The defendant pled guilty to a violation of Health and Safety Code section 11360(a)(3)(D), a felony, for formal probation. If defendant remains crime free for a year, he will be allowed to withdraw his plea and enter a guilty plea to Health and Safety Code section 11360(a)(2), a misdemeanor.

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

The People v. Chad Michael Moroney, SBSC No. 24CR03814

Mr. Moroney is charged with felony Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale in violation of Health & Safety Code Section 11378, felony Possession of Fentanyl for Sale in violation of Health & Safety Code Section 11351, felony Possession of Cocaine for Sale in violation of Health & Safety Code Section 11351, misdemeanor Possession of Marijuana for Sale in violation of Health & Safety Code Section 11359(b), misdemeanor Possession of Methamphetamine in violation of Health & Safety Code Section 11377, and misdemeanor Possession of Drug Paraphernalia for Sale in violation of Health & Safety Code Section 11364. The defendant has an extensive criminal history including strike priors.

The defendant applied for mental health diversion under Penal Code Section 1001.036. The court denied his application.

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

The People v. Efigenio Javier Torres-Flores and Gavan Louis Honey, SBSC No. 25CR07311

Both defendants are charged with misdemeanor Vandalism in violation of Penal Code Section 594(b)(2)(A). Mr. Torres-Flores is charged with misdemeanor Possession of Marijuana for Sale in violation of Health & Safety Code Section 11359(b), and misdemeanor Possession of Greater

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than 28.5 grams of Cannabis or greater than Eight Grams of Concentrated Cannabis in violation of Health & Safety Code Section 11357(b)(2).

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

The People v. Alejandro Alberto Nava Medina, SBSC No. 26CR00592

Mr. Nava Medina is charged with two felony counts of Penal Code section 470(b)- forgery, a misdemeanor violation of Health and Safety Code section 11360(a)(2)- transportation of marijuana, a misdemeanor violation of Health and Safety Code section 11359(b)- possession of marijuana for sale, a misdemeanor violation of Penal Code section 148(a)(1)- resisting a peace officer, and a misdemeanor violation of Penal Code section 166(a)(4)- violating a court order. The defendant was also on formal probation in 22CR00271 when this occurred. One of the terms of his grant of probation included a prohibition on possessing cannabis.

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

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