



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**MICHAEL L. RAMSEY**

District Attorney

**MARK MURPHY**  
Chief Deputy District Attorney

**JASON WINES**  
Chief Investigator



July 7, 2021

Manual Alvarez, Executive Director  
California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training  
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95605-1630

**RE: Public Comment and Request for Public Hearing (Gov. Code § 11346.8)  
Proposed Regulatory Action on CCR Title 11 § 1005  
District Attorney Investigator Qualifications**

Executive Director Alvarez:

I recently learned of the POST Commission recommending changes for the minimum qualifications of district attorney investigators. I had the opportunity to read the transcripts of that meeting as well as other material from POST regarding CCR Title 11 § 1005 and **am opposed** to the recommended changes. I have read statements from other district attorney's offices also opposing the recommended changes and agree with their statements, but I also want to add a bit of historical importance to this issue.

As an elected district attorney for over 30 years, I have watched the role of the district attorney investigator (DAI) evolve into a well-respected and valued member of our overall law enforcement community. This has not always been the case and the current level of respect observed today required years of development and planning. I believe the changes currently recommended by POST would set us on a backwards path after so many years of progress.

When I first became the Butte County District Attorney, DAI's had a range of experience, which included those with no law enforcement experience. There was a great disparity in qualifications and there were, unfortunately, investigators who had no business in law enforcement. DAI's did not have a good reputation among local law enforcement and there was significant contempt towards DAI qualifications. Both in perception and reality, many DAI's did not understand base fundamental police work. This in turn led to significant problems in pay equivalency and in recruitment opportunities, not to mention quality of work. The bottom line was DAI's did not have the respect of their peers; they did not have credibility.

In 1998, the POST commission worked with members of district attorney offices from around the state and determined there was a need to remove the Special Basic Investigative Course (SIBC), essentially requiring all DAI's to come up through the regular ranks of the police or sheriff agencies. This change was specifically done to address the disparity in DAI quality and bring legitimacy to the role of the district attorney investigator. This paradigm shift was successful in bringing about the fundamental changes needed to earn the respect of our law enforcement community as well as our ability to compete in pay and recruitment.

Tel: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

• [www.buttecounty.net/da](http://www.buttecounty.net/da)

*M. Alvarez - MA  
07/13/2021*

