



OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501-3643

MICHAEL A. HESTRIN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

July 12, 2021

Manny Alvarez
Executive Director
Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA. 95605

Subject: POST District Attorney Investigator minimum training requirements

Dear Mr. Alvarez,

Please accept this formal communiqué as my objection to the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Commission Regulation 1005(a), which proposes to dramatically alter the minimum training requirements for District Attorney Investigators in the State of California.

Adoption of this regulation is in direct opposition to the very essence of POST's mission statement, since it would effectively lower the standards required for DA Investigators instead of acting to "*continually enhance the professionalism of California law enforcement*" vis-à-vis establishing and maintaining "*the highest relevant statewide standards for selecting and training law enforcement personnel*".

As the enforcement component for the primary law enforcement official in Riverside County, District Attorney Investigators are required per 830.1 PC to provide mutual aid as Peace Officers when called upon; one need not look beyond the civil unrest and events of last year to understand the value of upholding POST's vision "*to develop and support the world's finest peace officers and law enforcement organizations*" by increasing and improving standards and training for them, and not reducing these requirements.

To be effective, District Attorney Investigators must be acutely familiar with state laws and prosecution. They are unique within the law enforcement community in that they are experts in individual areas of investigative focus, and heavily relied upon by other agencies as subject matter experts. Commission Regulation 1005(1) would commensurately decrease the number of appropriately qualified candidates required to support the prosecutorial efforts of District Attorney offices throughout the State of California, thereby thwarting their effectiveness and greatly diminishing the quality of criminal cases.

If we are to recognize the critical nature of the role of District Attorney Investigators in our communities as law enforcement generalists, capable of responding to any and all incidents

M. Alvarez *MA*
07/20/2021

along with police officers and sheriff's deputies, then it would be foolhardy to assume that a reduction of their minimum training requirements would somehow bolster *our* mission as law enforcement executives, sworn to pursue justice while serving the public trust, since their contribution to public safety is immeasurable.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal, conduct additional research, seek the perspectives of district attorneys throughout the State of California, and understand that pursuing this course of action is wholly counterproductive and detrimental to the role of the District Attorney Investigator. Only a swift rejection of this proposal from POST will ensure the preservation of their classification for future recruits, continually held to the highest possible standard of investigative excellence among law enforcement professionals.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Hestrin", written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL A. HESTRIN
District Attorney

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