



COUNTY OF SONOMA
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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JILL RAVITCH
District Attorney

July 12, 2021

Manuel Alvarez, Executive Director
California Commission on P.O.S.T.
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95605-1630

RE: Opposition to Proposed Altering of Regulation 1005

Dear Director Alvarez,

The Sonoma County District Attorney's Office opposes the proposed change to Commission Regulation 1005 that will lower the minimum requirements for a District Attorney Investigator.

The Law Enforcement agencies throughout Sonoma County rely on our District Attorney Investigators as professional peace officers and investigative generalists with the ability to investigate all crimes prosecuted by this office. The qualifying experience and training obtained through attending and successfully completing the Regular Basic Course is the very foundation of a peace officer. DAIs typically have many more years as a peace officer, at various ranks and serving in wide variety specialty assignments, resulting in a wealth of experience as a generalist. Our District Attorney Investigators have an average of 29 years' experience as a peace officer and 12 years conducting complex investigations.

There is no valid reason to lower the standards for the position of District Attorney Investigator. The Specialized Investigator's Basic Course does not provide the comprehensive level of training necessary for a District Attorney Investigator to be proficient in the assignment. DAIs must possess a broad skillset and vast knowledge to conduct investigations required of a District Attorney's Office. There is simply too much at stake for victims, and justice, to lessen the requirements of the DAIs.

The Sonoma County District Attorney's Office recommends that the Office of Administrative Law reject this proposal to modify POST Commission Regulation 1005. We ask that POST include District Attorneys and their Chief Investigators as part of any future discussion of alternative measures.

Respectfully,


Jill Ravitch
District Attorney


Cecile Focha
Chief Investigator


M. Alvarez^{MA}