

Office of the  
MERCED COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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July 6, 2021

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

RE: Opposition to Proposed Regulatory Action Altering Commission Regulation 1005: Minimum Training Requirements for District Attorney Investigators

Dear Director Alvarez,

The Merced County District Attorney's Office appreciates the efforts by the commission to ensure the professionalism of Law Enforcement. However, the Merced 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 proposed regulation change was initiated and moved forward without input from District Attorneys, their Chief Investigators, or the California District Attorneys Association CDAA, those most intimately involved in the areas governed by this regulation. Merced County Law Enforcement relies heavily on the District Attorney Investigators as law enforcement generalists with the ability to investigate all crimes prosecuted by this office. A peace officer generalist/professional is an individual of expertise and training in all aspects of California law enforcement. Qualifying experience and training is provided through attending the Regular Basic Course, producing investigators who defined under PC 832 and granted full peace officer authority as defined in PC 830.1(a).

The Specialized Investigator's Basic Course does not provide the level of training necessary for a District Attorney Investigator to be proficient in their assignment. A person who completes a Specialized Course is limited to specific job functions and lacks the level of training required for possession of a Basic Certificate. Our experience has taught us that the level of training provided in the Specialized Investigator's Basic Course is insufficient for the wide-ranging skills and knowledge necessary to conduct the investigations required of a District Attorney's Office.

The Merced County District Attorney's Office recommends that the commission reject this proposal to modify Commission Regulation 1005. We ask that the Commission on P.O.S.T. include District Attorneys and their Chief Investigators as part of the discussion of alternative measures.

Respectfully,

*Kimberly R. H. Lewis*  
Kimberly R. H. Lewis  
District Attorney

*W. Olson*  
William K. Olson  
Chief Investigator

*M. Alvarez*  
07/13/2021