

# MONTEREY COUNTY

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JEANNINE M. PACIONI, DISTRICT ATTORNEY



July 7, 2021

Executive Director Manny Alvarez  
California Peace Officer's Standards and Training  
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA. 95605-1630

Dear Director Alvarez,

The Monterey County District Attorney serves as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in the County of Monterey. We are writing in response to the decision to approve changes to the minimum qualifications for District Attorney Investigators, approved by the California Peace Officer's Standards and Training (POST). This decision was made without the input from the majority or even a minority of Elected District Attorney's or Chief Investigators of whom this very policy directly impacts and fundamentally changes the basis of which all Sworn Investigators may be hired. I want to express great concern with this recent change instituted by POST and oppose this change. Redefining the minimum training hours required for District Attorney Investigators might seem like a minor change to someone who is not familiar or aware of the responsibilities and continually increasing scrutiny that Prosecutor's Offices are under. District Attorney's Office's are demanded by the public to provide the highest level of service through employing trained and knowledgeable Peace Officers that are familiar with all aspects of law enforcement.

Our interpretation of Penal Code 830.1 is clear and equal in terms of authority and responsibility of all members of Law Enforcement listed in that section which includes District Attorney Investigators. This section does not qualify the Specialized Investigator's Course as a minimum standard of an acceptable level of training. There is no exception that allows for obtaining the Specialized Investigator's Course as a replacement to meet the legal requirement under Penal Code 830.1 or any advanced certificates through POST.

Each County deploys their investigators in a multitude of ways to include local task forces, officer involved incident investigations, conflict of interest cases, public corruption, and hundreds of additional types of enforcement responsibilities. To uniformly change these minimum standards would have serious long-lasting effects that devalue and show a lack of insight into the professionalism and need for highly trained Investigators across the board. The time is to train more not less. Our communities are seeking the highest quality of law enforcement and the highest level of individuals tasked to seek justice, reducing, and redefining their training requirements without involving any stakeholders was a failure on the POST Commission. I ask that this letter speak to the Commission and Office of Administrative Law (OAL) so they know the concerns, ramifications and opposition to this change and work to undue this amended POST Regulation 1005(a).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeannine M. Pacioni".

JEANNINE M. PACIONI  
District Attorney

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan McGuirk".  
RYAN MCGUIRK  
Chief Investigator

M. Alvarez MA 07/13/2021