

Association of Deputy District Attorneys



515 S. Flower St. • 18th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 236-3618

January 7, 2021

The Honorable Vern Pierson
President
California District Attorneys Association
2495 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 575
Sacramento, California 95833
general@cdaa.org

Dear Mr. Pierson,

You have undoubtedly heard of the new policy directives issued by Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón as well as the Petition for Writ of Mandate filed by the Association of Deputy District Attorneys challenging portions of those directives.

I am writing to request that you direct the CDAA Ethics Committee to issue an opinion on the ethical implications of these policies for the prosecutors ordered to follow them. The attorneys in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office have long supported CDAA and I and many other of my colleagues have given our time to CDAA at no personal benefit, to assist CDAA with training seminars, committees, and other CDAA endeavors. Now, we are in greatest need of support and guidance for our attorneys who feel they are being directed to violate the law, the California Constitution, and their duties of professional responsibility.

I am attached with this email (and due to the size of the documents what maybe supplemental emails) copies of the Special Directives in question, our Writ filings as well as some points and authorities prepared by others to analyze the ethical implications.

Sincerely,

Michele Hanisee
President