

**GIL GARCETTI**  
District Attorney



### ***Why Gang Violence Is Bad***

*Criminal street gangs are a constant threat to all of our residents. ten to 15 percent of our criminal population is responsible for roughly 70 percent of our crime problem. Scratch a hard-core gang member, and you will almost invariably find an individual who falls within this ten to 15 percent.*

*Last year, gang members were responsible for 807 homicides, 45 percent of all homicides committed in the county. Four times as many gang members as non-gang members commit violent crimes; seven times as many gang members use drugs.*

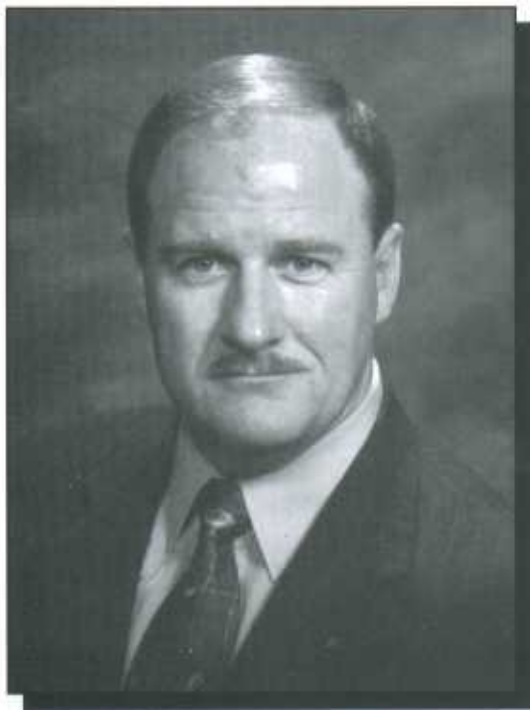
*This is unacceptable. The District Attorney's Office Hardcore Gang Division has more than 40 deputies fighting adult and juvenile gang crime. We also go beyond criminal prosecution to attack gangs in non-traditional ways. Instead of arresting gang members one at a time, our SAGE Program (Strategy Against Gang Environments) uses civil law to stop gang criminal activity even before it is committed, going after the gang as a whole. Our ACT Program (Abolish Chronic Truancy) fights truancy because we know that kids who are chronically truant are most likely to become gang members. We also have been working for several years for a total overhaul of the juvenile justice system.*

*We know that the residents who live in gang-afflicted communities want to lead normal lives. Gangs prevent that. As a result, gangs will remain one of our primary targets in the enforcement of justice in this county.*

*Finally, I wish to thank ALADS for its efforts to help resolve the problems that face our communities through publication of the Dispatcher magazine.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gil Garcetti".

GIL GARCETTI  
District Attorney



*Dear Supporter:*

*On behalf of the ALADS Board of Directors, staff and members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of both our association and law enforcement in general.*

*ALADS represents over 7,000 deputy sheriffs and district attorney investigators. These are the men and women working the streets, jails, courts and many other positions that make up the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. While we primarily represent our members, we also find it important to give back to the communities we serve. This magazine is our way of doing just that.*

*We hope that this third edition of the Special Edition Dispatcher will continue our efforts to better educate you about the fastest-growing problem facing us as a community – gangs. We cannot let our neighborhood be destroyed by this serious problem.*

*Instead, we must educate and proactively intervene in our communities to make our parks, schools, homes and streets safe from gangs. Our magazine is a step in that direction.*

*Once again, thank you!*

*Sincerely,*

*PETE BRODIE  
President*



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