



The Dispatcher

The Official Publication of the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs



Special Edition

**“Battling the Plague of
Gangs in our Community”**



BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General



Gang Violence Letter from Attorney General Bill Lockyer

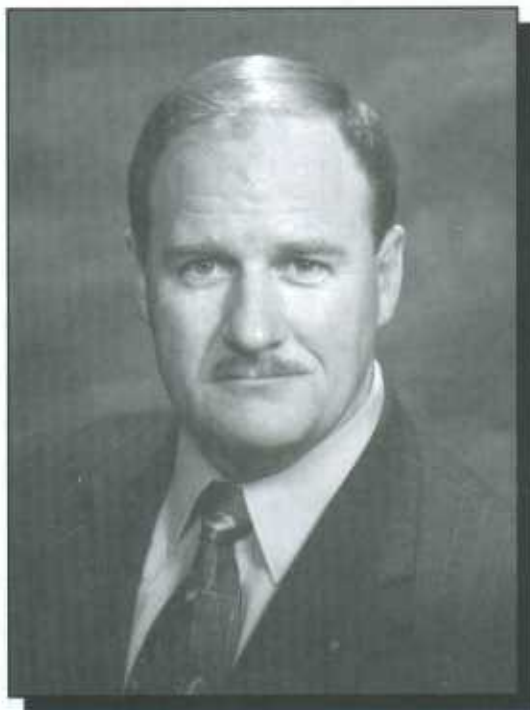
Gang violence is a serious problem in California that continues to threaten the peace and security of our neighborhoods. The Department of Justice estimates that there could be as many as 300,000 gang members in our state. In 1996, gangs were responsible for one out of every five homicides in California.

I believe that an effective solution to curbing gang violence must emphasize both punishment and prevention. Over the last two years, our Gangs/Criminal Extremists Unit, which identifies major criminal street gangs and criminal extremist groups operating throughout California, has helped train over 2,200 officers in gang recognition, membership and violence potential. Our CAL/GANG Web Network System, a cooperative project between California local law enforcement agencies and our Bureau of Investigation, provides information on criminal street gangs and gang members via a statewide-automated communications network.

Yet, traditional crime-fighting tactics are not enough. My office is working on a number of strategies to prevent gang violence before it starts. We are currently funding 30 local programs under the California Gang, Crime and Violence Prevention Partnership grant program, enacted by the Legislature in 1997. At the local level, civil injunctions and other creative law enforcement strategies have helped to stop potential criminal gang activity before it starts. In addition, Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin and I recently established a Safe Schools Task Force to make our school a safe harbor from the violence and crime that too often plague our surrounding communities.

I salute the efforts of ALADS to reduce the violence and destruction caused by gangs and to make our state a safer place. I look forward to continuing to work with law enforcement and community leaders throughout California to fight gangs, drugs and violence, and to help steer our young people toward productive, fulfilling lives.

BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General



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 fourth 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 neighborhoods 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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