



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Stanislaus County  
Courthouse  
800 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 200  
Modesto, CA 95354  
Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353  
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Carol Shipley  
Assistant District Attorney  
Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen  
Steve Casey  
Birgit Fladager  
John Goold  
Dave Harris

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: March 27, 2005

Re: Sentencing of Craig Leon

Contact Birgit Fladager

Chief Deputy District Attorney

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – The Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office announced today that Craig Leon, 44, of Modesto, was sentenced under California's Three Strikes law to 25 years to life for possession of heroin for sale and transportation of heroin. Mr. Leon was sentenced by Judge John G. Whiteside on March 23, 2006.

Mr. Leon's attorney argued for a lesser sentence, but Judge Whiteside said, "I have seen cases where I had doubts [...] that a life sentence was appropriate. This is not one of those cases." Whiteside cited Mr. Leon's long history of criminal activity and his failure to have any appreciable period in his adult life without committing crimes.

Defendant had previously been convicted by a jury on February 1, 2006. Defendant also had two prior robbery convictions found true, and three separate prior commitments to prison found true. Deputy District Attorney John R. Mayne prosecuted the case.

The case arose out of events which occurred on December 12, 2004 in the city of Modesto. Officer Ron Johnson testified that Mr. Leon rolled through a stop sign, cutting off his police cruiser. A search of Mr. Leon's truck revealed 11.53 grams of heroin in a glove on the dashboard. A police expert testified that the heroin had a street value of over \$1,000.

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