



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: April 7, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Joel Adam Marcelja
Auto Thief Sentenced to
16 months in state prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Joel Adam Marcelja, age 28, of Stockton was convicted of auto theft. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred in Modesto on March 23, 2009 when the defendant stole his friend's 1989 red Chevy Camaro. Marcelja was already on parole for an unrelated auto theft conviction from March 2007.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Marcelja to sixteen months in state prison.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (STANCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911

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