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For Immediate Release

MADD Honors Deputy DA Andrew Aguilar as ‘Prosecutor of the Year’

He is Recognized for his Work in the DUI Homicide Unit

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recently honored Deputy District Attorney Andrew Aguilar with the “Prosecutor of the Year Award” at their Law Enforcement Recognition Awards Ceremony. Deputy DA Aguilar was honored for his work during the two years that he handled cases for DA’s DUI Homicide Unit.

Aguilar successfully prosecuted six DUI cases involving death during that time, obtaining homicide convictions in each. Notably, in January 2019, Aguilar prosecuted the unit’s first DUI murder case involving a medical marijuana user impaired only by marijuana with no other intoxicating substances. That case involved a head-on collision on Pomerado Road in Scripps Ranch on Easter Sunday of 2016 that resulted in the death of 43 year-old Amanda Walzer and the infliction of great bodily injury to 49 year-old Jon Warshawsky. Aguilar overcame a hard-fought involuntary intoxication defense that sought to blame the medical marijuana industry and governmental regulators. The jury rejected that defense and returned a gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated conviction, which sent a strong message to the community that driving while impaired by any substance will not be tolerated.

“I am very proud of Deputy DA Andrew Aguilar’s recognition because it demonstrates the dedication that he and the rest of the DUI Homicide Unit have for these serious cases,” said District Attorney Summer Stephan. “His hard work, attention to detail and exceptional work ethic make him the perfect choice for this award.”

The DUI Homicide Unit streamlines complex DUI cases by creating expertise within the office. This results in a quicker resolution to cases and speedier justice to the families who have lost a loved one. The specialized unit creates uniformity in sentencing among the four adult courthouses. In addition, the unit helps law enforcement adapt to changes in technology by having a designated DA Investigator who is trained in the latest techniques in collision reconstruction.

Aguilar, a native of San Diego, graduated from University of San Diego School of Law in 2005. He worked at the San Diego City Attorney’s Office before joining the District Attorney’s Office in 2008.
Prior to law school, Aguilar graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1996 and served as a commissioned officer in the Coast Guard for six years.

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**About the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office**

The San Diego County DA’s Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.