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For Immediate Release

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## Defendant Sentenced to Seven Years for Attempted Kidnapping for Rape

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) announced today that defendant Jeremiah Owens, 28, has been sentenced to seven years in prison for his role in attempting to kidnap a girl from in front of an Encinitas home, with the intent to rape her. Owens pleaded guilty on April 9, to attempted kidnap for rape of a 15-year-old minor. He is also required to register as a sexual offender for the remainder of his life.

During the preliminary hearing, the teenage victim testified she was waxing her surfboard in a driveway in Encinitas last July 26, when Owens ran up behind her, grabbed her by the neck, and forced her to the ground. The defendant tried to pull her toward a truck parked across the street where his roommate, Christopher White, was standing. The victim fought off Owens, running into the safety of the home where she called her parents and the police. Police released a sketch of White and the description of his truck to the media, based on witness statements. Over the next two days, community members and businesses in the area provided numerous tips to the San Diego Sheriff's Department, resulting in the arrest and positive identification of both Owens and White two days after the incident.

Co-defendant, Christopher White, pleaded guilty to being an accessory to kidnapping. He will be sentenced to one year in custody and three years of probation on June 19.

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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 justice and support victims daily across San Diego County. DA Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families and providing justice to the voiceless and most vulnerable. She is a national leader in the fight against sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and has served as a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County for 28 years.*