Case Summaries [[1]](#footnote-1)

# Sacramento Cases

Sonny Herrera was indicted on February 1, 2018 for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, Herrera’s criminal history includes eight prior felony convictions, including assault with a deadly weapon, robbery, burglary, and being felon in possession of a firearm. On Sep. 26, he was sentenced to 51 months in prison. **2:18-cr-021**

John Trotter was indicted on April 12, 2018 for possession of a gun in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense. According to court documents, Trotter was arrested after getting involved in a high-speed chase through a residential neighborhood which resulted in Trotter crashing his car into the front yard of a residence. Trotter’s criminal history includes eight prior felonies for domestic violence, first degree burglary, vehicle theft, felon in possession of a firearm, and drug trafficking. On May 23, he was sentenced to 60 months in prison. **2:18-cr-074**

Tony Van was indicted on April 19, 2018 for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, Van was previously convicted of participating in the murder of Joseph Montoya in 2008 in Sacramento County. On May 31, he was sentenced to 51 months in prison. **2:18-cr-082**

Russel Valenzuela was indicted on July 26, 2018 for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, Valenzuela was arrested in possession of two machine guns while he was on post-release community supervision for a state firearms offense. Valenzuela’s criminal history includes felonies for assault with a deadly weapon, drug trafficking, and possession of a controlled substance while armed. On July 18, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. **2:18-cr-140**

Matthew Michael Fraticelli was charged on November 15, 2018 for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, Fraticelli has five felony convictions, including a federal conviction for possessing an unregistered device. In May 2009, Fraticelli and an accomplice placed a pipe bomb at the federal courthouse in Sacramento. The device did not detonate. On April 1, he was sentenced to 46 months in prison. **2:18-cr-231**

Daniel Awai-Fuller was charged on January 31, 2019 for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, Awai-Fuller’s criminal history includes felony convictions for infliction of corporal punishment on a spouse or cohabitant, attempted robbery, and multiple firearms and drug trafficking crimes. **2:19-cr-027, Status Conference set for 11/18/2019**

Juan Carlos Torres-Bobadilla was charged on May 16, 2019 for being a felon in possession of a firearm, possessing heroin for distribution, possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime, and being a deported alien found in the United States. According to court documents, Torres-Bobadilla has felony convictions for second degree robbery and possessing a controlled substance while armed. Torres-Bobadilla was validated as a Mexican Mafia associate while in California state prison. This case arose when Torres-Bobadilla was arrested for breaking his girlfriend’s nose because she questioned him in front of another Mexican Mafia member during a drug resupply run in Los Angeles.
**2:19-cr-085, Status Conference set for 11/19/2019**

Marquez Jeter was charged on April 25, 2019 for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, Jeter’s criminal history includes two convictions for possession for sale of a controlled substance and being a felon in possession of a firearm. **2:19-cr-075, Sentencing set for 12/19/2019**

Ismael Huazo-Jardinez was charged on June 13, 2019 for being an alien in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, Huazo-Jardinez was arrested at the scene of a fatal drunk driving accident in which the vehicle Huazo-Jardinez was driving plowed through a mobile home community, killing a mother, father, and 10-year-old son. Huazo-Jardinez has been previously removed from the United States after being found here in violation of immigration laws. The Sutter County District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting Huazo-Jardinez in the state case related to the May 4, 2019 fatal car accident. Huazo-Jardinez was released on $300,000 bail, and federal agents later arrested him. A stolen gun was in the car and a stolen hand gun in his house. **2:19-cr-102, Status Conference set for 1/9/2020**

Christopher Wadstein was charged on July 18, 2019 for being a felon in possession of a firearm and possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. According to court documents, Wadstein had multiple prior arrests for weapons offenses (firearms and knives), two high‑speed police chases that ended in accidents, and attempted murder. **2:19-cr-118, Status Conference set for 11/7/2019**

Jason Broadbent was charged on Sept. 5, 2019 with assaulting federal officers with a deadly weapon and various drug trafficking and firearms crimes, including discharging and brandishing a firearm during crimes of violence and possessing unregistered short-barreled machine guns and a pipe bomb. According to court documents, Broadbent has a previous felony conviction for cruelty to animals and two prior convictions for being a felon in possession of a firearm. **2:19-cr-155, Status Conference set for 12/6/2019**

Dave Perkins Jr. was charged on Sept. 19, 2019 for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, Perkins’s criminal history includes convictions for attempted murder, robbery, and assault with a deadly weapon. **2:19-cr-162, Status Conference set for 11/15/2019**

Jonathan Shane Blakeley was charged on Oct. 3, 2019 for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, Blakeley has a felony conviction for carrying a loaded firearm in public, and two separate convictions (one state and one federal) for possessing a firearm as a felon. Blakeley is a validated Norteno gang member in Vallejo and a suspect in three homicides. At the time of his most recent arrest, he led police on a high-speed chase and then tried to carjack a motorist. Blakeley had just been released from BOP custody 28 days before this incident. **2:19-cr-172, Status Conference set for 11/19/2019**

# Fresno Cases

On Sept. 23, 2019, Alterick Praylow was sentenced to 9 years and 2 months in prison for firearms possession and drug trafficking. According to court documents, this case arose from a traffic stop by the Mendota PD, during which the officer discovered the firearm, marijuana and cocaine. Praylow had served a 15‑year prison sentence in Georgia for a shooting. **1:18-cr-064**

According to court documents, on Jan. 19, 2019, Pablo G. Rivera allegedly assaulted a U.S. Postal Service mail carrier, shoving him into the mail truck in an attempt to carjack the truck with the carrier in it. The mail carrier pushed Rivera back and was ultimately able to exit the car. Rivera then drove several blocks down Shaw Avenue in Fresno until he crashed. Rivera ran from the crash and broke into a side door of an office building. He was met at the front door by Fresno police officers, who apprehended him.
**1:19-cr-020, Status Conference set for 12/16/2019**

On Feb. 21, 2019, the United States Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force assisted Selma PD in finding William Adkins, who was wanted for an attempted homicide and a parole violation. After arresting him, officers found a gun in his waistband. According to court documents, Adkins has multiple prior felony convictions. **1:19-cr-170, Status Conference set for 12/9/2019**

According to court documents, Emmanuelle Padilla was arrested after a citizen called 911 and stated that defendant was on the corner fumbling with a firearm and dropped it on the ground before he picked it up quickly and put it in his waistband. Officers arrested Padilla after finding the gun in his waistband. On Aug. 22, 2019, he was indicted on a charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm. **1:19-cr-175, Status Conference set for 12/9/2019**

Jesse Moses Escano has a prior conviction for a violent crime and he is a documented Bulldog gang member. According to court documents, two Fresno police officers were on patrol in a predominantly Bulldog-controlled neighborhood when they recognized two males walking into an apartment complex, one wearing Bulldog gang colors. The officers exited their car and approached the two men. When they got a bit closer, however, one officer recognized Escano and knew he was on parole. They detained him and searched him for weapons but found none. Escano, however, was in violation of his parole for wearing gang colors, they handcuffed him, and Escano admitted that he had a gun in his underwear. The gun was later determined to be loaded and stolen. **1:19-cr-181, Status Conference set for 12/16/2019**

In September, Joseph Cavazos was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, Cavazos was arrested when he went into a neighboring apartment waving a gun around. Officers found the gun in the apartment. Cavazos's criminal history includes convictions drug possession with intent to sell, being a felon or addict in possession of a firearm and domestic violence. He pleaded guilty on 9/23/2019. **1:19-cr-196, Sentencing Conference set for 12/16/2019**

Liodam Gonzalez was charged on Sept. 19, 2019 for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to court documents, on Aug. 30, at 3:20 a.m., law enforcement officers received an alert indicating that gunshots had been fired on South Kern Street in Bakersfield. The spent shell casings were traced to Gonzalez’s residence where more bullet casings were found on the car that he drove. A search of the residence yielded a Glock handgun that was converted to fire as a fully automatic machine gun. This is a gang member who used a Glock auto sear in a residential neighborhood in Bakersfield. He was previously charged in a conspiracy to commit murder in a case where he and another gang member robbed a store and the other individual shot a Bakersfield police officer. **1:19-cr-201, Status Conference set for 12/9/2019**

# Multiple defendant cases

**Aryan Brotherhood**

On June 6, 2019, 16 members and associates of the Aryan Brotherhood (AB), a prison-based gang, were charged after a long-running investigation into drug trafficking and murders inside and outside of California’s prisons. The charges allege multiple murders of those who run afoul of the gang, as well as an active drug trafficking operation that spans multiple counties and states. Nine defendants were arrested on federal racketeering and other charges for extensive, organized criminal activity from within California’s most secure prisons. The allegations include murders, drug trafficking and other violent crimes. Six of those charged were already serving life sentences for murder. Seven other individuals were also charged. One remains a fugitive, and one is deceased.

**Dog Pound Gangsters – Fresno**

The last of the defendants were sentenced this year. Over 15 convictions of members and associates of a notorious and violent criminal street gang involved in sex trafficking, identity theft, fraud, and gang-related violence. Ten defendants were convicted and received sentences in the 10 to 18 year range.

**Bulldog Gang – Fresno**

Alpha Dog targeted Bulldog Gang members and their associates and targeted sources of supply of narcotics. In October, Filiberto “Beto” Chavez was sentenced to 20 years in prison after a jury convicted him of drug and sex trafficking offenses. Carlos Montano was convicted of drug, firearms and sex trafficking offenses and in June 2019, was sentenced to over 21 years in prison.

**West Side Crips – Bakersfield**

The investigation into the West Side Crips, a Bakersfield criminal street gang, began after the murder of a five-year-old boy during what investigators believe was a drive-by shooting conducted by West Side Crips members. After nearly 10 months of investigation in a coordinated effort by local, state, and federal law enforcement, and 60 days of federal wiretaps, approximately 37 members and associates of the West Side Crips were arrested in December 2017 on federal and state charges, including burglary, robbery, illegal gun possession, drug sales and murder. The final federal in-custody defendant was convicted on all counts in August 2019.

**MS13 – Mendota**

As part of a multi-agency operation, 25 individuals associated with Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) were arrested in California on federal and state charges in connection with their gang activities, including assault with a dangerous weapon in aid of racketeering and conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances. Additionally, two federal indictments charged two MS-13 gang members with kidnapping and murder in aid of racketeering and another charged three MS-13 gang members with conspiracy and assault with a dangerous weapon in aid of racketeering. The investigation began after reports that MS-13 had established a presence in Fresno County. The investigation centered in and around the City of Mendota, a Central Valley town 35 miles west of Fresno. Investigators found evidence of broad criminal activity, including murder, assault, firearms possession and drug trafficking activity.

**Hells Angels – Modesto**

A months-long investigation into the Modesto Hells Angels Motorcycle Club resulted in charges against seven members, including their president, vice president and secretary. They are charged with marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine trafficking offenses and firearm offenses.

**Nuestra Familia – Kings County**

In June 2019, as part of a multi-agency operation, over 50 individuals were arrested on federal and state charges in connection with their drug-trafficking activities associated with the Nuestra Familia prison gang. The investigation uncovered that Nuestra Familia was responsible for large-scale trafficking of methamphetamine and other controlled substances, as well as various firearms offenses and other violent crimes. According to court documents, high-ranking Nuestra Familia members used contraband cellphones from inside Fresno County’s Pleasant Valley State Prison to arrange the transport of illicit narcotics from drug sources in California and Mexico to a stash house in Kings County. From that stash house, gang members outside of the prison coordinated the preparation and delivery of the drugs to distributors throughout Kings and Tulare Counties.

1. \*The descriptions of these various schemes are derived from the factual allegations contained in publicly filed indictments. Some of these cases have not yet been resolved and those defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)