



# ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## NEWS RELEASE



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### San Bernardino Man Charged with 1997 Murder of Monica Leech

VENTURA, Calif. - District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced that Kevin Ray James (DOB 09/23/67), of San Bernardino, has been charged with the 1997 murder of Monica Leech.

Monica Leech, a Camarillo mother of four, worked as a teller at Western Financial Bank in Thousand Oaks. On April 28, 1997, two men robbed the bank on Thousand Oaks Boulevard. One of the men, identified as Kevin Ray James, is accused of shooting Ms. Leech in the back of the head. The total taken from the bank was just over \$11,000.

On March 13, 2023, James was charged with the first-degree murder of Monica Leech. He was also charged with the two special allegations of murder while engaged in a robbery and use of a firearm. His arraignment was continued to April 13, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 13 of the Ventura County Superior Court. James remains in custody without bail.

A news conference will be held with District Attorney Erik Nasarenko and Ventura County Sheriff Jim Fryhoff on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Thousand Oaks Police Station located at 2101 E. Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks.

**Case: 2023005876**

**Defendant Information:**

Kevin Ray James (DOB 09/23/67)  
San Bernardino

**Charges:**

- PC 187(a) - First-degree murder
- Special Allegations
- PC 190.2(a)(17)(A) - Murder while engaged in robbery
  - PC 12022.5(a) - Use of firearm

