



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Victorville Man Sentenced for 2004 Moorpark Murder

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Antoine Nehme (DOB 07/22/51), of Victorville, has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for orchestrating the 2004 murder of Dennis Wood, a Moorpark resident found dead in his home. A Ventura County jury previously convicted Nehme on March 17, 2025, of murder, conspiracy to commit a crime, and solicitation of murder. The jury also found true the special allegation that Nehme ordered the killing for financial gain. Additionally, Judge Paul Baelly found all charged aggravating factors were true, including that the crime involved great violence and was carried out with planning, sophistication, or professionalism.

Senior Deputy District Attorney John Barrick, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Homicides Unit, prosecuted the case.

"I am so very grateful to the members of the Ventura County Cold Case Unit for never giving up their pursuit of the murders of Dennis Wood. Without their diligence and dedication, this case never would have been solved," Mr. Barrick said. "Dennis Wood was a good and honorable man who didn't deserve to die the way he did. I am glad Dennis' family was able to see his murderers finally brought to justice after 21 long years."

On April 16, 2004, Ventura County Sheriff's Office deputies conducted a welfare check at Wood's Moorpark home. They discovered his body lying in the doorway, with a large pool of blood near his head. An autopsy confirmed he had been shot twice in the head and once in the chest. The case went cold for several years.

Investigators later uncovered a financial motive. Wood, who owned a prepaid phone card business, had given Nehme \$28,700 in cash for an unknown business venture. At the time, Nehme owned a gas station in Ojai where he had purchased prepaid phone cards from Wood. Rather than repay his debt, Nehme arranged for Wood to be killed to wipe out what he owed.

A break in the case came in February 2010, when a suspect in an unrelated Los Angeles murder case revealed that his co-defendant, Alex Bracamonte, had killed Wood on Nehme's orders. Bracamonte, who worked for Nehme at the Ojai gas station, later confessed to the Wood murder during an August 23, 2023, interview with deputies. He provided details only the killer would know. Already serving time for a 2006 Los Angeles murder, Bracamonte was charged with Wood's killing and pled guilty on May 8, 2024. He testified against Nehme during trial and was sentenced on May 7, 2025, to 15 years to life for the murder of Wood. That sentence is being served consecutive to the Los Angeles County case.

Case: 2024012877

Defendant Information:

Antoine Nehme (DOB 07/22/51)
Victorville

Charges convicted of:

- PC 187(a) – Murder
- PC 182(a)(1) – Conspiracy to commit a crime
- PC 653f(b) – Solicitation of murder

Special Allegations Found True:

- PC 190.2(a)(1) – Murder for financial gain
- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(a)(4) – The defendant induced another to participate
- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism
- CRC 4.421(a)(11) – The defendant took advantage of a position of trust

