



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Four Defendants Arraigned in Connection with Simi Valley Jewelry Store Heist



VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko and Simi Valley Police Chief Steve Shorts held a news conference today, announcing the arrests and charges filed against four members of a sophisticated burglary crew. Manuel David Ibarra, Sergio Andres Meji-Machuca, Camilo Antonio Aguliar Lara, and Heidy Nickolt Trujillo are each charged with four felony counts. Two counts of conspiracy to commit commercial burglary and two counts of Conspiracy to receive stolen property in connection with the May 25, 2025, break-in at 5-Star Jewelry store and Dr. Conkey's Candy and Coffee shop in Simi Valley. The defendants also face special allegations of excessive loss over \$3 million, and theft or damage in concert with others. These special allegations are newly allowed thanks to voter approved proposition 36.

All four defendants appeared in Ventura County Superior Court on June 12, 2025, for arraignment. Each pled not guilty to the charges and are currently being held on \$100,000 bail.

“They were sophisticated and skilled professionals who used counter surveillance measures, a collapsible ladder, rope, and power tools to cut through a roof, tunnel into a wall, and breach a safe

to take millions in watches, jewelry, cash and other merchandise,” District Attorney Nasarenko said during the news conference.

Beginning in mid-May 2025, this group is alleged to have orchestrated a coordinated burglary conspiracy targeting 5-Star Jewelry. On May 16, one individual allegedly drove another to a Home Depot, where rope was stolen for use in the crime. On May 20, three individuals are accused of traveling in a white Volvo SUV to the shopping center containing the jewelry store and Dr. Conkey’s Candy and Coffee shop. Two of them allegedly conducted surveillance by observing the interior of the jewelry store through its front window. All three are accused of entering Dr. Conkey’s to assess the location of surveillance cameras and inspect the walls adjoining the jewelry store. One individual allegedly used a cell phone flashlight to examine the walls, while another acted as a lookout. During a conversation inside the shop, one of the suspects is accused of mimicking the use of a spray can, allegedly indicating plans to disable security measures.

On May 25, the defendants returned to the location in the same Volvo SUV, now containing a ladder and rope. One individual is accused of placing the ladder against the exterior of Dr. Conkey’s and cutting through the roof to gain entry. Once inside, a suspect allegedly spray-painted a surveillance camera and accessed the store’s safe to steal cash. The group is further accused of cutting through a shared wall to enter 5-Star Jewelry, where they allegedly broke into a safe and stole jewelry, cash, and more. The co-conspirators allegedly fled the area with the stolen property and transported it to a residence in Los Angeles County.

The defendants are scheduled to be back in Ventura County Superior Court on June 23, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. for an early disposition conference. A preliminary hearing is set for June 26.

Case: 2025014450

Defendant Information:

Manuel David Ibarra (DOB 09/17/87)

Sergio Andres Meji-Machuca (DOB 06/07/98)

Camilo Antonio Aguliar Lara (DOB 11/08/93)

Heidy Nickolt Trujillo (DOB 06/26/99)

Charges:

- (4 counts) PC 182 – Conspiracy to commit a crime in violation of

Special allegations:

- PC 12022.6(a)(4) – Excessive loss over \$3 million
- PC 12022.65(a) – Theft or damage in concert

Watch the full news conference on [YouTube](#).
Photos and the felony complaint available here: <https://we.tl/t-VqFB3WZM1O>