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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SERRATTO NAMED CDAA PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR**

Matthew Serratto, a supervising deputy district attorney in the Merced County District Attorney's office, has been named 2018 Prosecutor of the Year (Small and Medium Size Counties) by the California District Attorneys Association Board of Directors. He will be honored during the Awards Banquet at the CDAA Summer Conference on Thursday, August 2, in Anaheim, District Attorney Larry D. Morse II announced today.

"Matt is an exceptionally talented and dedicated prosecutor. His work in and out of the courtroom in 2017 was simply incredible and he is most deserving of this highest honor for a prosecutor. We are hugely proud of Matt and his continuing contributions to public safety in Merced County," Morse said, noting that Serratto is the first Merced County prosecutor to be recognized as CDAA Prosecutor of the Year.

Serratto, 37, was selected, in part, for his trial work in 2017, which included securing guilty verdicts in three murder cases, two of them involving multiple defendants, and a guilty verdict in an attempted homicide case. All of the cases were driven by gang activity, and two included special circumstance allegations which resulted in life sentences, according to Morse.

Serratto was also the lead prosecutor in Operation Scrapbook, a 2017 multi-agency investigation directed by the District Attorney's office that targeted Sureno gang members operating in Merced County and the Central Valley, Morse said. Operation Scrapbook led to the arrest of 74 gang members and their associates. Forty of the gang members prosecuted by the Merced County DA's office have already been convicted, the others are awaiting trial. Fourteen of those arrested are being prosecuted federally, Morse noted.

"It is an honor to be recognized by CDAA," Serratto said. "Every case we handle and every trial we put in front of a jury is truly a team effort – from the officers spending days on nights on surveillance in order to keep our streets safe from violent gang members to all of our colleagues in the DA's office who send the subpoenas, get witnesses to court and ensure we are prepared for trial to our attorneys and management who help talk us through cases, share ideas and put us in the best position to achieve justice."

Since joining the District Attorney's office in 2007 Serratto has tried 57 cases to verdict, including seven murder cases, six attempted murder cases and 17

cases with a life sentence exposure. He was promoted to supervising deputy district attorney earlier this year.

Serratto also serves as a member of the Merced City Council, having been elected in 2016 and was recognized last year as one of the Merced Sun-Star's "20 Under 40" up and coming community leaders.

Born and raised the Bay Area, Serratto graduated from St. Ignatius High School in San Francisco. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from UC Davis in 2002, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest academic honor society in the United States. Following graduation he taught English in Belgium and Argentina through 2003 before returning to California to study law at UCLA where he also served as editor in chief of the Pacific Basin Law Journal, graduating in 2006.