



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen

Alan Cassidy

Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: April 13, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Steven Allan Leonard II

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Auto Thief Sentenced to Four Years and

Eight Months Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Steven Allan Leonard II, age 29, of Sacramento, was convicted of auto theft and residential burglary. Leonard is currently on probation as a result of an April 2006 conviction for identity theft. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred over two days. During the early morning hours of September 25, 2008, a person entered the open garage of a home on Viader Drive in Modesto and stole a 2008 silver Audi Quattro. Modesto Police officers were able to locate a fingerprint from the interior of the garage that belonged to the defendant. On November 21, 2008 at around 2:00 a.m. in the area of Frances and McHenry Avenues in Modesto, while the previous investigation was still on-going, Leonard was observed exiting the passenger side of a 1997 blue BMW 740i that had been reported stolen during a residential burglary two days prior. A probation search of Leonard's room at the Don Pedro Motel revealed numerous items of stolen property. Leonard claimed that his girlfriend purchased the car from an unknown person and that he did not know the vehicle was stolen, but that they steal items in order to pay for methamphetamine and their motel room.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Leonard to four years and eight months in the California Rehabilitation Center.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (STANCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911

###