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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 28, 2009
Re: Alex Ernest Martinez – Drug Dealer
sentenced to 25 years to life in prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Alex Ernest Martinez, age 48, of Modesto, was sentenced to two consecutive terms of 25 years-to-life in state prison. Martinez was previously convicted by a jury on July 1st of Furnishing Methamphetamine and Possession of Methamphetamine. After a court trial on the defendant's prior convictions, the judge found that the defendant had three prior felony convictions that fall under California's "Three Strikes" law. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey M. Laugero prosecuted the case for the People.

The current offense occurred on February 23, 2009. During a joint operation by officers of the Modesto Narcotic Enforcement Team and the Sheriff's Office S.T.I.N.G. Unit, an undercover agent purchased methamphetamine from defendant Alex Ernest Martinez. Martinez was arrested after the sale and, during a search of Martinez after his arrest, he was found to be in possession of two additional bindles of methamphetamine.

The defendant's prior "strikes" are from a robbery in 1981 for which he had served 6 years in prison and two additional robberies in 1985 for which he had served 10 years in prison.

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