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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 8, 2011
Re: People v. Ruelas, 1418429
DUI crash lands driver in prison

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michael Anthony Ruelas, age 22, of Modesto was convicted on June 8, 2011 of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Causing Injury with an enhancement of causing Great Bodily Injury, and Auto Theft. Deputy District Attorney Meghan M. Greerty prosecuted the case for the People.

On March 29, 2010, Ruelas was speeding down the Hickman Highway near Waterford when he crossed over the center line and caused a head-on collision with another vehicle. The victim's car was totaled and the victim was trapped inside. The victim suffered major, life threatening injuries, including a broken back, broken knees, bleeding on the brain, a ruptured spleen, lung lacerations, and a crushed ankle. Ruelas suffered minimal injuries. The car being driven by Ruelas had been reported stolen out of Waterford fifteen minutes prior to the crash. Ruelas admitted he had been drinking before the crash and his blood alcohol level was .10%.

Upon entry of the no contest plea, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Ruelas to five years in state prison.

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