

# Association of Deputy District Attorneys



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February 4, 2022

Honorable George Gascón, District Attorney  
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office  
211 West Temple St., Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: INVITATION TO ATTEND ADDA-SPONSORED MEMBERSHIP WEBINAR** E-8

Dear Mr. Gascón,

The Association of Deputy District Attorneys represents the 800-plus deputy district attorneys of Los Angeles County. Our colleagues include new hires fresh out of law school, veteran prosecutors who work late into the evening to manage their ever-expanding caseloads, and former defense attorneys who joined the DA's office to change the criminal justice system from the inside out. We represent all of them, whether they are dues-paying members or not.

Our members are extraordinarily diverse and talented, just like the residents of the county they serve. They are, without a doubt, hardworking, ethical, compassionate, and dedicated public servants.

Over the course of our existence, the ADDA has worked with three different District Attorneys and their administrations to address issues and resolve problems related to wages, hours, and working conditions. This relationship was strengthened by mutual respect, openness, and transparency. Unfortunately, over the past year, we have seen a strain in that relationship due to a new era of secrecy on the part of some members of your management staff.

During this same period, we have maintained a warm and strong working relationship with the Los Angeles County's Chief Executive Office—the office that represents the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. This relationship was especially important in overcoming the many challenges posed by the pandemic.

We have done all of this while vigilantly protecting our members' interests and advancing our mission to protect public safety.

Over the past months, many of our members have asked us to take a position on an unprecedented and pressing public question: whether to recall and replace you as Los Angeles County's District Attorney. This was not the first-time members made this plea. Last year, a similar request was made. We took no action.

A recall of a public official is only warranted by a serious breach of the public trust. There were early signs of this breach—from violating the County Charter’s civil service rules to forcing your deputies to seek judicial intervention against illegal provisions of your directives. The breach we see as the most harmful is your purposeful inaction in the face of increasing and distressing violence against innocent members of the public. We hoped that there would be a course correction. We have seen none.

It would be inappropriate for our seven-person Board of Directors (which includes six registered Democrats and one decline-to-state voter) to speak for so many on such an important nonpartisan question. We recognize that our members are uniquely qualified to judge your performance and competency as District Attorney. They know, better than most, how your policy choices have impacted our office, our law practices, the victims and survivors of crime whom we serve, and the safety of the communities in which we live.

With that in mind, it is our members—not just our Board—who will decide whether to endorse recalling you. So that this office’s prosecutors can make their decision in a transparent and democratic manner, we invite you to attend a virtual town hall meeting to give you the opportunity to speak on your own behalf. We think that you, as the elected department head, would benefit from the opportunity to discuss this issue with our members.

The scheduled date of the webinar is Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 6:15 p.m. However, to maximize your opportunity to participate, our business calendar permits us to offer the following dates all starting at 6:15 p.m.: Thursday, February 17; Friday, February 18; or Saturday, February 19. Please be advised that these will be the only dates that work for us. If you would like to participate—and we certainly hope that you will—please advise of your preferred date no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at the following email address: [secretaryadda@laadda.com](mailto:secretaryadda@laadda.com). Please note: this invitation is for you, personally. No surrogates will be accepted. If we do not hear from you or your authorized representative by February 9 at 1:00 p.m., we will conclude that you have declined our good-faith invitation.

The protocol by which the webinar will be conducted is appended hereto. Should you have any questions, please contact the Association’s Executive Director, John Rees.

We sincerely hope you accept our invitation.

Sincerely,



Michele Hanisee, President *for*  
The Board of Directors:

Eric Siddall, Miji Vellakkattel, Scott Dominguez, Nathan Bartos, Ryan Erlich, & Robert Song

ATTACHMENT:

Agenda For ADDA-Sponsored Webinar