

San Francisco prosecutors shift attention to pimps

San Francisco prosecutors shift attention to pimps. After many years of hard work, raising the awareness of our legislators, policy-makers and fellow community members, we are finally witnessing a fundamental shift in the way victims of commercial sexual exploitation are treated by the criminal justice system. The recent conviction of a pimp by San Francisco District Attorney Kamala D. Harris is evidence of our municipal government's shift towards the prosecution of exploiters and customers and a more conscientious approach to victims of commercial sexual exploitation. On January 19, 2006, District Attorney Kamala Harris announced that Jeffrey Walker, age 42, was sentenced to 12 years in state prison for pandering a 22-year-old woman. A jury convicted the defendant of felony pandering or 266i(a)(2)PC on September 29, 2005. According to the charges, the defendant met the 22-year-old victim in April 2005. He told her he needed help promoting a radio station he worked for at several San Francisco strip clubs. On April 29, the defendant brought the victim from San Jose to San Francisco to visit the clubs. On the way, the defendant repeatedly encouraged the victim to work as a prostitute, telling her that she could make a lot of money and informing her of how much she could charge for various services. He then took the victim to Broadway and tried to get her a job at five different strip clubs.

Following a two-week trial, the jury deliberated for two days, eventually finding the defendant guilty of pandering or encouraging another person to become a prostitute by promises, threats, and violence or by any device or scheme. On Tuesday, January 17, Judge

Chuck Haines sentenced the defendant to 12 years in state prison. Under California's three strikes law, the defendant's prior strike conviction for raping a juvenile in 1991 was utilized to double his maximum exposure from 6 to 12 years in state prison. He will begin serving his sentence immediately. From everyone at SAGE, congratulations to District Attorney and her committed and dedicated team of prosecutors on this tremendous success!

The SAGE eBulletin is a periodic publication of The SAGE Project, Inc. You may subscribe or unsubscribe at any time by following the links below. Standing Against Global Exploitation Project-or SAGE Project-is a nonprofit organization with one primary aim: bringing an end to the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adults (CSE/CSEC). We at SAGE contribute to that goal by raising awareness about CSE/CSEC issues, providing outreach and services to CSE/CSEC survivors, and by designing and implementing effective policies that have helped women and girls worldwide escape and heal from CSE/CSEC. SAGE is a unique collaboration between social services, public health, criminal justice, private agencies and individuals. Our approach is collaborative as well as prevention and solution oriented; it's about restorative justice that benefits individual communities and the whole of our society. We are headquartered in San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. Our USPS mailing address is SAGE Project, Inc., Administrative Offices, 1385 Mission Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94103 U.S.A. You may learn more about the many SAGE programs and services, or about the issues of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) at SAGE Online. <http://m1e.net/c?31385334-/g45lMbBUaWI.%401417535-T4xnT7BsB9JgI>