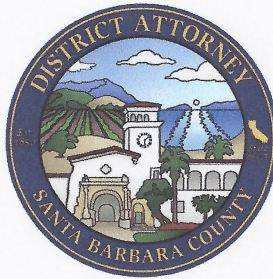


OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 04-150

RELEASE NUMBER

April 5, 2013

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Megan Rheinschild, Director, VW Assistance

CONTACT PERSON (805) 568-2408

\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

April 5, 2013

**Santa Barbara County District Attorney Holds Conference  
Understanding and Working with Indigenous Populations  
April 22, 2013  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Santa Maria Veterans' Memorial Community Center**

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney Victim-Witness Assistance Program is presenting a one-day conference on April 22, 2013, to assist law enforcement, social service, medical and educational providers to understand and work with crime victims from our community's immigrant population. The conference features academic experts and experienced community leaders from around the state.

According to a January 2010 report entitled "Indigenous Farmworker Study" and commissioned by the California Endowment, it is estimated that between 15,000 and 25,000 indigenous Mixtec immigrants have migrated to work in the northern Santa Barbara County area in recent years due to the labor intensive agricultural economy.

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley states, "My office is committed to protecting our community's most vulnerable victims and witnesses of crime including those who are culturally, linguistically, and economically isolated. In order to protect and serve our community we must first understand the barriers which prevent access to crime prevention and law enforcement services. This seminar is a step towards providing practical tools and strategies towards that goal."

Detailed agenda and registration information is available at:

Website: <http://www.countyofsb.org/DA/>

Telephone: DA Victim-Witness Assistance Program (805) 346-7543

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