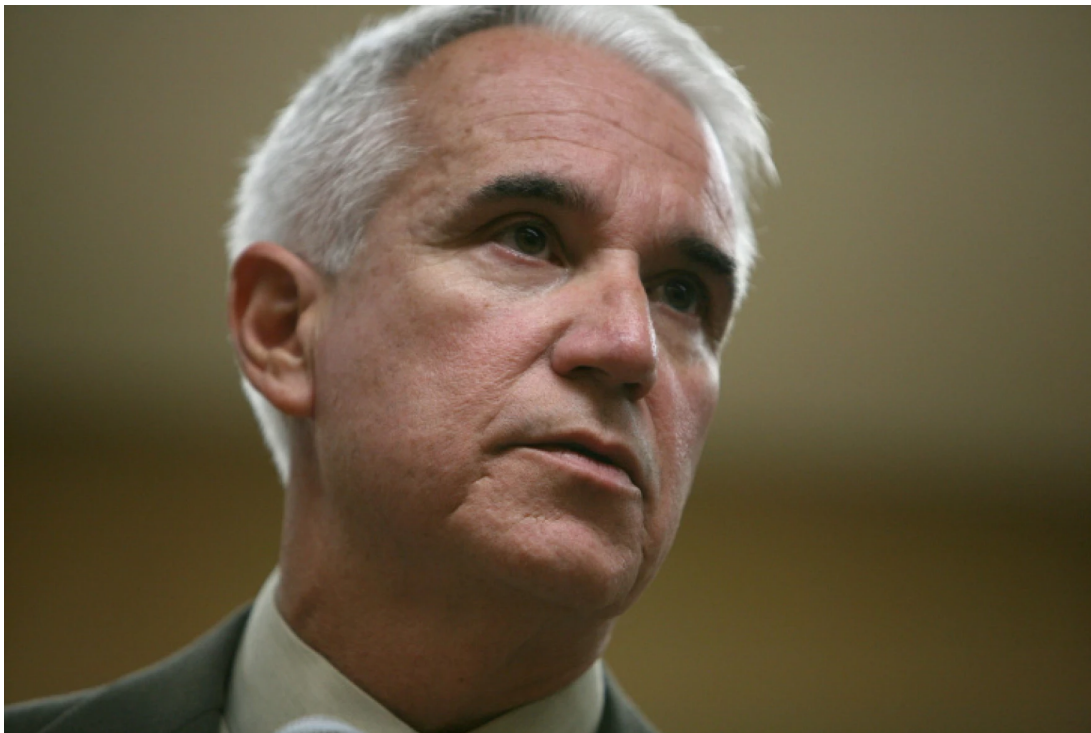


CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Here Are The People LA's DA Has Named To Review Past Police Shootings

By [Frank Stoltze](#)

Published Jun 16, 2021 4:33 PM



L.A. DA George Gascón.

(Justin Sullivan / Getty Images)

LAist relies on you to stay independent.

Important local news should be freely accessible to all, not hidden behind paywalls. If you like the stories you read on LAist and want to keep them coming, make a donation today. Your gift powers our reporting and helps keep you connected to your community.

☐ Monthly Donation

☐ One-Time Donation

DONATE

\$15/mo

\$20/mo

\$ other amount /month

CONTINUE >

L.A. District Attorney George Gascón has announced the creation of an outside panel to reexamine fatal police shootings determined to have been lawful by his predecessors.

Along with civil rights attorneys and police practices experts, the group includes two community activists, one of whom is a member of Black Lives Matter-LA — something that will likely cause consternation among Gascón's critics in law enforcement and elsewhere.

The Factual Analysis Citizen Consulting Team (FACCT) will work with law students from UC Irvine to review cases and determine whether there is any evidence that calls into question the decision not to prosecute, according to the DA's office.

“Significant concerns have been raised by law enforcement officials, civil rights attorneys, activists and others regarding the handling of numerous police use-of-force cases,” Gascón said in a [news release on Wednesday](#). “In order to restore trust and move forward as a community, I am convening this group to thoroughly review the evidence and make recommendations on cases that we may need to examine more closely.”

Making Good On A Campaign Promise

During his campaign, Gascón pledged to review past police shootings.

FACCT “will identify and prioritize use-of-force cases to review, including those where there is contrary forensic evidence or witness testimony, evidence from a civil or criminal case or impeachment evidence,” the release said.

The panel will not express an opinion on whether charges should be filed against police officers and sheriff’s deputies, according to the release. Instead, it will present cases to the DA’s office, which will decide whether additional investigation is necessary, the matter is assigned to a special prosecutor or criminal charges will be filed.

There have been more than 340 fatal officer shootings since 2012, according to the DA’s office.

A Sheriff’s deputy [currently faces a voluntary manslaughter](#) charge for fatally shooting a man in Norwalk in 2016. No other law enforcement officer has been charged in a shooting since 2000.

Prominent Civil Rights Attorneys, Black Lives Matter Rep

The FACCT panel includes UC Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, former US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Attorney Je Yon Jung, and Melanie Ochoa, senior staff attorney and director of police practices at the ACLU of Southern California.

It also includes police practices experts, including former Sheriff’s Lt. Roger Clark and former Arlington, Texas Police Chief Theron Bowman. Also in the group: Paula Minor of Black Lives Matter-LA and longtime Chicano activist Carlos Montes.

Earlier this year, Gascón announced he intended [to hire Lawrence Middleton as a special prosecutor](#) to evaluate whether criminal charges are merited against officers involved in four high-profile police shootings. But the hiring of the former federal

prosecutor has been slowed by the county bureaucracy and the need to resolve conflict of interest issues, according to the DA's spokesman.

As a result of the delays, the statute of limitations on manslaughter charges in three of the four cases Middleton was supposed to review has already expired.

The Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs and the L.A. Police Protective League — the unions that represent deputies and LAPD cops, respectively — did not immediately return requests for comment.

Here's the full list of FACCT members:

Civil rights attorneys, scholars and activists:

Shimica Gaskins — Executive Director of the Children's Defense Fund, California, and former Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Policy of the U.S. Department of Justice

Je Yon Jung — Civil rights attorney; former senior trial attorney for the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Erwin Chemerinsky — Dean of the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, and constitutional scholar

Barry Litt — Civil rights attorney and Partner at McLane, Bednarski and Litt, LLP

Paula Minor — Black Lives Matter-LA organizer and activist

Carlos Montes — Centro CSO-Chicano activist and organizer; Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council board member

Melanie Ochoa — Senior staff attorney and Director of Police Practices, American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California

Olu Orange — Director of the University of Southern California Dornsife Trial Advocacy Program and the Agents of Change Civil Rights Advocacy Initiative; civil rights attorney at Orange Law Offices, P.C.

Robert Saltzman — Commissioner, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission and West Hollywood Business License Commission; former Commissioner, Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners; former Associate Dean, USC Gould School of Law

Academic law clinics/programs:

Professor Paul Hoffman — Director Civil Rights Clinic and partner at Schonbrun, DeSimone, Seplow, Harris, & Hoffman, LLP

Professor Katie Tinto — Director Criminal Justice Clinic and Clinical Professor of Law; former public defender, Alternate Public Defender's Office of Los Angeles County

Melanie Partow — Lecturer, Civil Rights Clinic and civil rights attorney

Police practices experts and advisors:

Theron Bowman — Former Chief of Police Arlington, Texas; former Deputy City Manager/Director Public Safety for Arlington; and CEO, Theron L. Bowman Inc.

Allwyn Brown — Former Chief of Police, Richmond, California and LERT Ops lead at Tik Tok

Roger Clark — Former lieutenant, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and CEO, Police Practices Consultant, Inc.

Frank Fernandez — President of Blueprints 4 Safety; former Deputy Chief and Chief of Operations for Miami Police Department; and Public Safety Director for the City of Coral Gables

What questions do you have about criminal justice and public safety in Southern California?

Frank Stoltze covers a new movement for criminal justice reform at a time when not everybody shares the same vision.

ASK A QUESTION

Related Stories



NEWS

DA Gascón Asks Supes To Name Rodney King Prosecutor To Investigate Police Shootings

Feb 12, 2021



Feb 2, 2021



NEWS

DA Gascón's Reform Effort Runs Into Opposition From His Own Prosecutors

Feb 2, 2021

LAist is part of Southern California Public Radio (SOPR), a member-supported public media network. Hear our news on-air at our partner site:

[Live Stream](#) [Schedule](#) [In Person](#)

[About Us](#)

[LAist Staff](#)

[Careers](#)

[Advertising](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Support Us](#)

[Editorial Ethics and Guidelines](#)

[DEI Statement](#)

[Style Guide](#)

[Diversity Report](#)

Keep up with LAist

Our top stories delivered weeknights

SUBSCRIBE

© 2022 Southern California Public Radio - All Rights Reserved

[Terms of Service](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

