

OIG Initial Email Request

From: [Kardan, Shadi](#)
To: [Garcia, Roel D.](#); [Kim, Erick S.](#); [Webb, Jacqueline R.](#); [Webster, Matthew C.](#)
Cc: [OIG/COC Requests](#)
Subject: OIG Request - ICE courthouse arrest
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:50:56 PM

Good afternoon,

In February 2020, Brendan Corbett reported to our office that there had been an incident in one of the LA County courthouses involving ICE. We would like to get more information about this incident. If we need to contact someone outside of IRC to get the information, please let us know. Any guidance would be appreciated!

Stay safe.

Shadi

*Shadi Kardan, Deputy Inspector General
Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General*

Department Email Response

From: Corbett, Brendan J.
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:09 PM
To: Wargo, John A.
Subject: FW: OIG Request - ICE courthouse arrest

This has been resolved. The OIG supervisor, Dara Williams admitted she misunderstood and passed on the incorrect information to her staff.

Brendan

From: Kardan, Shadi
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:27 PM
To: Corbett, Brendan J.
Cc: Garcia, Roel D. ; Kim, Erick S. ; Webb, Jacqueline R.
; Webster, Matthew C.
Subject: RE: OIG Request - ICE courthouse arrest

Aha! Okay. That makes more sense. Thank you for the clarification, Brendan.

Hope you and your loved ones are well and safe!

Shadi

*Shadi Kardan, Deputy Inspector General
Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General*

From: Corbett, Brendan J.
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Kardan, Shadi
Cc: Garcia, Roel D. ; Kim, Erick S. ; Webb, Jacqueline R.
; Webster, Matthew C.
Subject: FW: OIG Request - ICE courthouse arrest

Good afternoon,

This was apparently a misunderstanding of a discussion I had regarding ICE entering a courthouse in Northern California. I was surprised they entered into a courthouse to make an arrest. This was NOT an LA County courthouse.

You should be able to check archived news articles to reference the incident.

Brendan

Brendan J. Corbett, Chief
Custody Services Division : General Population

Kardan, Shadi

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:51 PM

To: Garcia, Roel D. ; Kim, Erick S. ; Webb, Jacqueline R.
; Webster, Matthew C.

Cc: OIG/COC Requests

Subject: OIG Request - ICE courthouse arrest

Good afternoon,

In February 2020, Brendan Corbett reported to our office that there had been an incident in one of the LA County courthouses involving ICE. We would like to get more information about this incident. If we need to contact someone outside of IRC to get the information, please let us know. Any guidance would be appreciated!

Stay safe.

Shadi

Shadi Kardan, Deputy Inspector General
Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General

Department Response Attachment

From: [Wargo, John A.](#)
To: [Chau, Veronica](#)
Subject: RE: OIG Request - ICE courthouse arrest
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:14:07 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

This incident did not take place in a LA County Courthouse. The incident occurred in Sonoma County Superior Court on February 20, 2020.

ICE ignores California law in courthouse arrests, prompting outcry from local officials

Olga R. Rodriguez and Juliet Williams, Associated Press Published 6:48 p.m. ET Feb. 20, 2020

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Federal agents are going to start making their way into “sanctuary” cities across the country where local jurisdictions keeps them from enforcing strict immigration policies. Buzz60

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SAN FRANCISCO — U.S. immigration agents arrested two people at a Northern California courthouse, including a man detained in a hallway on his way to a hearing, flouting a new state law requiring a judicial warrant to make immigration arrests inside such facilities. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents made the arrests Tuesday at Sonoma County Superior Court, prompting an outcry from criminal justice and court officials who said the action undermines local authority and deters immigrants who are in the country illegally from participating in the U.S. justice system.

ICE said California's law doesn't supersede federal law and "will not govern the conduct of federal officers acting pursuant to duly-enacted laws passed by Congress that provide the authority to make administrative arrests of removable aliens inside the United States."

"Our officers will not have their hands tied by sanctuary rules when enforcing immigration laws to remove criminal aliens from our communities," David Jennings, ICE's field office director in San Francisco, said in the statement.

California is one of several states that have passed laws to push back on a Trump administration policy introduced two years ago to make immigration arrests inside courthouses. Last year, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law to prohibit immigration arrests at courthouses without a warrant issued by a judge.

The arrests in Sonoma County came days after U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials announced the agency will participate in [ICE's escalating immigration enforcement across the country](#) in jurisdictions with sanctuary policies such as California and San Francisco.

Sonoma County District Attorney Jill Ravitch, Public Defender Kathleen Pozzi and San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin condemned the arrests for undermining public safety. Sonoma County counsel Bruce Goldstein called ICE's actions "lawless" because the agents had no warrants.

"It's now going to put total fear in the community," Pozzi said in an [interview with the Press Democrat](#). "People aren't going to come to court. Victims will refuse to show up. Witnesses will refuse to show up ... cases will have to get dismissed."

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency said both men had been arrested by

immigration officers numerous times from 2004 to 2010 and returned to Mexico in response several times.

In one of the arrests, a Sonoma County public defender and an investigator confronted an ICE agent leading a 37-year-old man to an unmarked law enforcement vehicle, demanding information about the affiliation of the agent, who wore no uniform, and the name of the man being taken away, Pozzi said. The man was detained in a second-floor hallway of the courthouse before he could attend his court hearing, she said.

His lawyer, private defense attorney Martin Woods, said his client was a carpenter who was expecting to resolve his criminal case Tuesday. The man had been arrested on suspicion of felony domestic violence and misdemeanor drunken driving and had since been trying to take responsibility for the incident, Woods said.

In another case, witnesses said a federal agent in plainclothes confronted a man in the parking lot, at first putting out his hand as if offering a handshake then grabbing the man's elbow before unzipping his own jacket to reveal a federal law enforcement badge, Pozzi said.

Custody Services Division, General Population

Twin Towers Correctional Facility, 8th Floor