



LA DA Hochman Opposes Overturning Menendez Brothers' Convictions

Description

Los Angeles' recently elected District Attorney, Nathan Hochman, announced on Friday that he has formally requested the court to deny the Menendez brothers' petition for a new trial. This development follows an assertion made by former DA George Gascon months earlier, which cited new evidence—a letter indicating the potential abuse the brothers allegedly suffered at the hands of their father—as grounds for reconsideration.

Hochman raised significant concerns regarding the validity of the evidence, contending that it fails to meet the stringent criteria necessary for a retrial. He remarked, "We reassessed the credibility of the letters, specifically the purported 1988 correspondence from Erik Menendez to Andy Cano, and found it riddled with inconsistencies that cast doubt on its authenticity." This letter, allegedly penned eight months before the murders of their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez, outlines claims of sexual abuse.

Hochman emphasized that even if the letter's authenticity were to be established, its late introduction—nearly three decades after the fact—would render it inadmissible. He critiqued the delay in presenting this evidence, noting that calls for a new trial were not raised until an extended period had passed.

The Menendez brothers, convicted in 1996 for the 1989 killings, have faced renewed scrutiny regarding their claims of trauma and abuse. Their family expressed profound disappointment in Hochman's decision, arguing that it reopens old wounds and undermines the psychological impacts of their historical abuse. They condemned Hochman's assertions, labeling them as not only unjust but also dangerous, as they perpetuate harmful narratives surrounding survivors of abuse.

The family remains hopeful that Judge Jesic will impartially assess the evidence in light of contemporary understandings of trauma, as they continue to advocate for justice and healing from a decades-long ordeal.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Reconsideration** /ˌriː.kən.sɪd.ər'ei.jən/ (noun): The action of thinking about something again especially to reconsider a decision.
2. **Credibility** /ˌkrɛd.ɪ'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ (noun): The quality of being trusted and believed in.
3. **Authenticity** /ɔːθən'tɪs.ɪ.ti/ (noun): The quality of being genuine or real.
4. **Inadmissible** /ˌɪn.əd'mɪs.ə.bəl/ (adjective): Not allowed or accepted particularly in a legal context.
5. **Profound** /prə'faʊnd/ (adjective): Having deep insight or understanding; intense.
6. **Advocate** /'æd.və.keɪt/ (verb): To publicly support or recommend a particular cause or policy.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who is the recently elected District Attorney of Los Angeles?
Option: Nathan Hochman
Option: George Gascon
Option: Jose Menendez
Option: Andy Cano
2. What was cited as grounds for reconsideration in the Menendez brothers' case?
Option: Financial fraud
Option: Abuse from their father
Option: Involvement in a drug cartel
Option: Political corruption
3. When were the Menendez brothers convicted for the killings of their parents?
Option: 1990
Option: 1996
Option: 2001
Option: 2010
4. What did Hochman criticize about the letter from Erik Menendez to Andy Cano?
Option: Its length
Option: Its handwriting
Option: Its inconsistencies
Option: Its language
5. Who is expected to impartially assess the evidence in the Menendez brothers' case?
Option: George Gascon
Option: Nathan Hochman
Option: Judge Jesic
Option: Andy Cano
6. What was the main reason Hochman cited for requesting the denial of a new trial for the Menendez brothers?



- Option: Authenticity of evidence
- Option: Length of the trial
- Option: Judicial bias
- Option: Public opinion

True-False

7. The letter from Erik Menendez to Andy Cano was written after the murders of their parents.
8. Calls for a new trial were immediately raised after the evidence of abuse came to light.
9. The Menendez family supported Hochman's decision to deny the new trial petition.
10. The Menendez brothers were convicted for the killings in 1989.
11. Judge Jesic is hoped to consider modern views on trauma in the case.
12. The Menendez brothers' case involves claims of trauma and abuse.

Gap-Fill

13. Nathan Hochman raised concerns about the validity of the evidence, stating it fails to meet the criteria necessary for a retrial. He found inconsistencies in the purported 1988 correspondence from Erik Menendez to Andy Cano, nearly eight months before the murders of their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez. This case led to the Menendez brothers being convicted in _____.
14. The delayed introduction of the letter from Erik Menendez to Andy Cano would render it inadmissible due to the extended period that had passed. The calls for a new trial were not raised until _____ after the fact.
15. The Menendez brothers' family expressed disappointment in Hochman's decision, criticizing that it undermines the psychological impacts of their historical _____.
16. The family hopes that Judge Jesic will impartially assess the evidence in light of contemporary



understandings of _____.

17. The Menendez brothers' claims of trauma and abuse have faced renewed scrutiny following the assertion made by former DA _____ months earlier.

18. The Menendez brothers were potentially abused at the hands of their _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Nathan Hochman 2. Abuse from their father 3. 1996 4. Its inconsistencies 5. Judge Jesic 6. Authenticity of evidence

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. 1996 14. nearly three decades 15. abuse 16. trauma 17. George Gascon 18. father

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the term used for the practice of obtaining something especially money through force or threats?

- Option: Blackmail
- Option: Negotiation
- Option: Compromise
- Option: Donation

2. Which word refers to the origin or beginning of something?

- Option: Apex
- Option: Cliffhanger
- Option: Inception
- Option: Aftermath

3. What does the word "venerated" mean?

- Option: Despised
- Option: Revered
- Option: Disrespected
- Option: Dishonored

4. What term is used to describe the act of presenting a play concert or other form of entertainment?

- Option: Fortitude



- Option: Demeanor
- Option: Execution
- Option: Eventuality

5. What is the term for enthusiastic praise or approval?

- Option: Censure
- Option: Adulation
- Option: Detraction
- Option: Condemnation

6. Which word means the quality of being believable or trustworthy?

- Option: Dubiousness
- Option: Incredulity
- Option: Authenticity
- Option: Validity

7. What are assertions made without proof?

- Option: Facts
- Option: Claims
- Option: Corroborations
- Option: Verifications

8. Which term best describes introducing new ideas or methods?

- Option: Traditional
- Option: Routine
- Option: Conservative
- Option: Creative

9. What term is used for critical observation or examination?

- Option: Ignorance
- Option: Exploration
- Option: Inspection
- Option: Perception

10. What is the term for a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy?

- Option: Opponent
- Option: Adversary
- Option: Proponent
- Option: Dissenter

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)



11. _____ intent is characterized by a desire to cause harm or suffering to someone.
12. A _____ is a secret plan by a group to do something unlawful or harmful.
13. _____ occurs when there is too much of something leading to a decline in value or effectiveness.
14. A process of _____ involves thinking again about a decision or position previously made.
15. An _____ performance is notably excellent or exceptional.
16. An _____ cast refers to a group of actors who perform together in a production.
17. The _____ waters made sailing difficult for the small boat.
18. The award ceremony will announce the _____ for various categories.
19. His _____ personality attracted people to him wherever he went.
20. The artist focused on the _____ aspects of the painting rather than its subject matter.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The confession was obtained through force or threat.
22. The key decision made at the meeting determined the course of action for the project.
23. The exaggerated gestures and dramatic flair added to the overall performance.
24. His contributions to the field were recognized and praised by experts.
25. These teams are in strong competition for the championship title this season.
26. The evidence was deemed unacceptable and could not be used in court.
27. The originality and genuineness of the artifact were confirmed by experts.



28. The novel had a deep and meaningful impact on the readers.

29. The movie received high praise and recognition from critics.

30. The financial records were carefully examined for any irregularities.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Blackmail 2. Inception 3. Revered 4. Execution 5. Adulation 6. Authenticity 7. Claims 8. Creative 9. Inspection 10. Proponent

Gap-Fill: 11. Malicious 12. Conspiracy 13. Oversaturation 14. Reconsideration 15. Outstanding 16. Ensemble 17. Turbulent 18. Nominations 19. Charismatic 20. Aesthetic

Matching sentence: 1. Coerced 2. Pivotal 3. Theatricality 4. Acknowledged 5. Contenders 6. Inadmissible 7. Authenticity 8. Profound 9. Acclaimed 10. Scrutiny

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

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