# "HOW MUCH DOES A DOLLAR COST?"*

MILLION DOLLAR HOODS

## AN ANALYSIS OF LASD DEPUTY GANGS AND COUNTY SETTLEMENTS (1990–2021)

## A MILLION DOLLAR HOODS REPORT

**Authors:** David C. Turner III, PhD, Tabatha L. Jones Jolivet, PhD, Marques Vestal, PhD, Mariah Tso, MS, Jordan Brewington, JD, Cerise Castle, Amy Cohen, and the MDH Team **Community Partners:** Janet Asante and the Justice LA Coalition

More than 50 years of evidence[1] establishes the long-standing existence, violent impact, and threat that Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) deputy gangs represent to County residents. This evidence – which includes public testimony from victims, civilian oversight commission investigations, and third-party research reports – underscores the urgent need to eradicate deputy gangs. In this report, we provide an accounting of the fiscal costs resulting from excessive force lawsuits associated with known deputy gangs. Prior reports examining the existence and impact of deputy gangs have speculated about the public cost of litigation for excessive force lawsuits. A recent report[2] estimated the costs of settlements and judgments at $54.9 million (from 1990 to 2018). We believe this is a conservative estimate. In our analysis, we found that between 1990 and 2021, the County paid $70.7 million in settlements and judgments related to deputy gangs. We found an additional $83.9 million in settlements and judgments, where deputy gang involvement is unclear, that require more in-depth analysis. The uncertainty around the latter value demonstrates the likelihood that this report underestimates the costs of lawsuits involving deputy gangs.

In this report, we examine the fiscal impact of LASD deputy gangs on LA County. However, fiscal analyses alone are inadequate. When the victims of deputy gang violence and their families pay the ultimate price in death and irreparable harm, LA County officials must fulfill the legal responsibility to eradicate them.




A group of peace officers within a law enforcement agency who may identify themselves by a name, be associated with an identifying symbol, and engage in a pattern of on-duty behavior that intentionally violates the law or fundamental principles of professional policing.

There are **at least 27** known LASD deputy gangs.

### 3000 BOYS 19 Cases

Created by deputies inside of Men's Central Jail, which serves as the first assignment for many deputies. The first known attacks by the 3000 Boys on incarcerated people began in 2008. Several 3000 Boys have gone on to associate with other deputy gangs.

### REGULATORS 14 Cases

Emerged as successors to the Vikings following the closure of the Lynwood station and remain active today. A sticker displaying the gang's logo was recently found inside Century Regional Detention Facility.

### VIKINGS 14 Cases

Originated in the now-shuttered Lynwood Station with deputy gang activity in the 1980s and 1990s. Many Vikings have been promoted to leadership positions within the department.

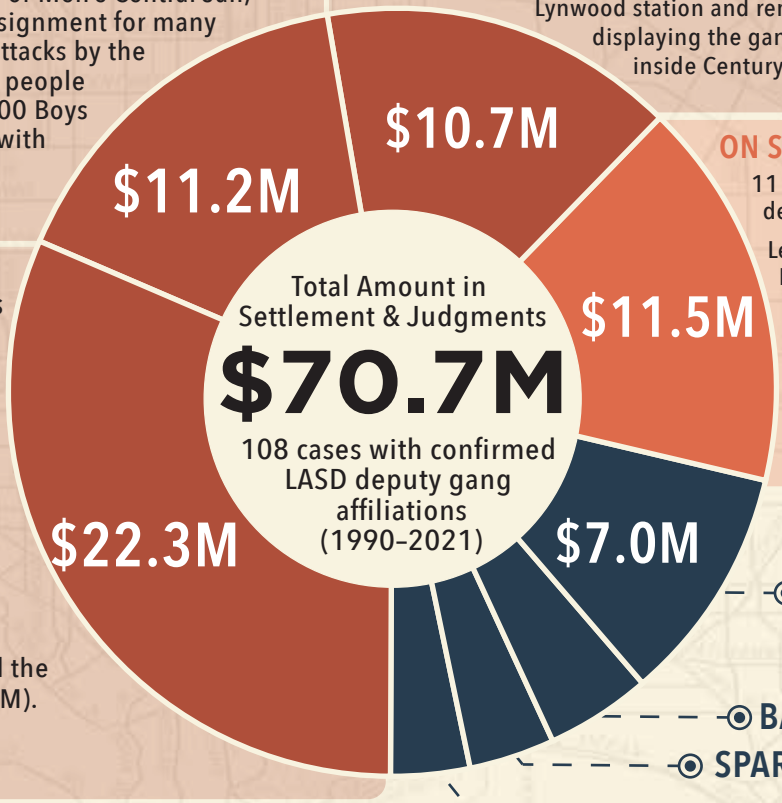
The first case that involved the Vikings was in 1990 ($9.0M).

### ON SHERIFF BACA'S WATCH

11 Cases implicated Baca in deputy gang activity.

Leroy (Lee) Baca served as LASD Sheriff from 1998-2014, and was convicted of felony obstruction of justce and lying to the FBI.

Includes settlements involving multiple gangs: Vikings, 3000 Boys, 2000 Boys, Grim Reapers, and Regulators




COMPTON EXECUTIONERS AND OTHER AFFILIATES

BANDITOS ($3.2M)

SPARTANS ($2.5M)

JUMP OUT BOYS ($2.4M)

*For the report's title, we sample How Much A Dollar Cost from Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp A Butterfly* album.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT STATIONS, FACILITIES, & JURISDICTIONS WITH LASD DEPUTY GANG ACTIVITY & AFFILIATIONS*

### 1. Lancaster Station
### 2. Palmdale Station
Affiliated with Rattlesnakes & Cowboys
Known since 2013 & 2018
DISTRICT 5

### 3. Peter J. Pitchess Detention Facility
Affiliated with the Wayside Whities & IPA
Known since 1990 and 2022
DISTRICT 5

### 4. Temple City Station
Affiliated with Tasmanian Devils & V Boys
Known since 2010 and 2022
DISTRICTS 5 & 1

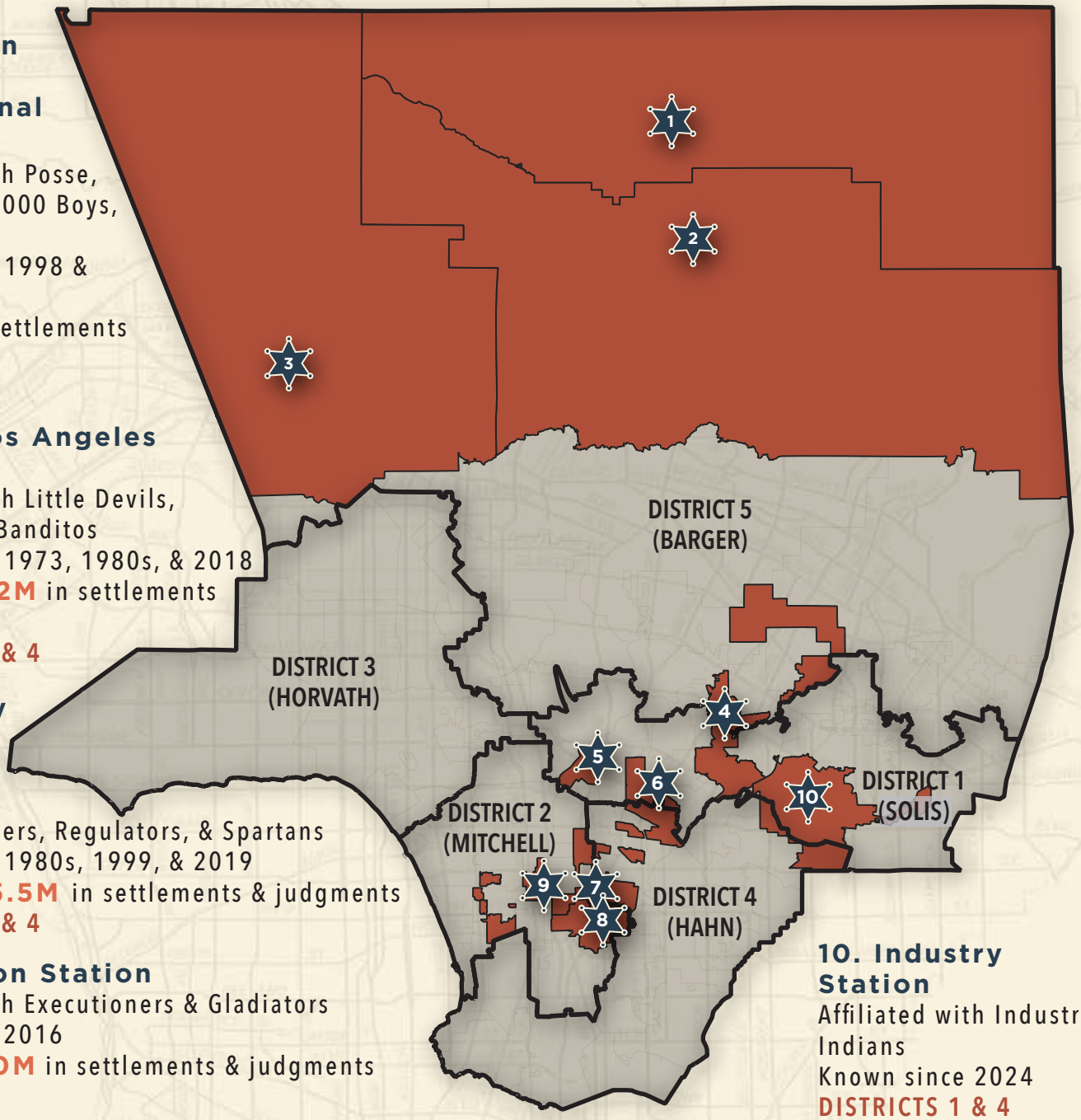
### 5. Men's Central Jail & Twin Towers Correctional Facility
Affiliated with Posse, 4000 Boys, 3000 Boys, & 2000 Boys
Known since 1998 & 2010s
**$11.2M** in settlements & judgments
DISTRICT 1

### 6. East Los Angeles Station
Affiliated with Little Devils, Cavemen, & Banditos
Known since 1973, 1980s, & 2018
At least **$3.2M** in settlements & judgments
DISTRICTS 1 & 4

### 7. Century Station
Affiliated with Vikings, Buffalo Soldiers, Regulators, & Spartans
Known since 1980s, 1999, & 2019
At least **$35.5M** in settlements & judgments
DISTRICTS 2 & 4

### 8. Compton Station
Affiliated with Executioners & Gladiators
Known since 2016
At least **$7.0M** in settlements & judgments
DISTRICT 2

### 9. South LA Station
Affiliated with Grim Reapers
Known since 2000s
DISTRICT 2




### 10. Industry Station
Affiliated with Industry Indians
Known since 2024
DISTRICTS 1 & 4

## LASD SHERIFF GANGS ARE A PROBLEM ACROSS COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICTS

*Each station is a genesis point for a known LASD deputy gang. Many deputy gangs are known to move throughout the County, and some gang members double ink.

## OVER 50 YEARS OF EVIDENCE

**1973** First documented existence of LASD deputy gang known as "Little Devils," identifying 38 members.

**1992** Kolts Commission confirmed existence of LASD deputy gangs, including the Vikings.

**1999** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights issued a report urging LASD to take decisive action to eradicate deputy gangs from its ranks.

**2012** Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence published a report, specifically noting the presence of LASD deputy gangs on the floors of Men's Central Jail.

**2021** Loyola Law School and Rand Corporation published reports reaffirmed existence of deputy gangs.

**2023** The LA County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission approved Special Counsel's Report on Deputy Gangs.

## THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CAN ACT NOW

## COMMUNITY-DRIVEN POLICY SOLUTIONS

### SB 2

Senate Bill 2 (SB2) Kenneth Ross, Jr. Police Decertification Act signed into law on September 30, 2021, creates a statewide system to license and decertify police officers.

### AB 847

California Assembly Bill 847 (AB 847) signed into law on October 6, 2025, allows law enforcement oversight commissions to access otherwise confidential personnel information in order to carry out their statutory duty to provide oversight into department misconduct.

**Methodology:** Data from this report was collected from County-specific sources through publicly available websites (County Counsel, the Civilian Oversight Commission, etc.) and Public Records Act (PRA) requests, facilitated by research institutes and reporters. The primary datasets are the Chronological List of Claims, Lawsuits, and Other Settlement Agreements Involving Allegations That A Sworn Member of LASD Was a Member of a Secret Society or Clique spreadsheet and Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC) dataset from the UC Irvine Intellectual Property, Arts, and Technology Clinic, acquired by journalist Cerise Castle, covering the years 2017–2022. Data from the PRA requests and the list of known LASD Sheriff deputy gang members were synthesized to develop one cohesive list of cases, removing duplicates and verifying deputy gang involvement by badge numbers and names. We consulted additional reports from the County Counsel, Civilian Oversight Commission, and the Loyola Law School to confirm the existence of deputy gangs and cross reference our datasets, as well as map LASD deputy gang activity and affiliations by law enforcement station, facility, and jurisdiction.

## Footnotes

[1] Reports, public testimony, and investigations spanning more than 50 years have established the systemic danger of deputy gangs to the County (Castle, 2021a, 2021b; Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence, 2012; Kolts Commission, 1992; Los Angeles County Office of the Inspector General, 2024; Loyola Law School, 2021; RAND Corporation, 2021; Special Counsel to the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, 2023; US Commission on Civil Rights, 1999).

[2] (Los Angeles County Office of the Inspector General, 2024)

## References


Castle, C. (2021). *LASD records: Databases of Known Associates of Deputy Gangs in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Deputy Shootings 1984-Current.*

Castle, C. (2021). *A Tradition of Violence: The History of Deputy Gangs in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.*

Center for Juvenile Law & Policy, Loyola Law School. (2021). *50 Years of Deputy Gangs in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department: Identifying Root Causes and Effects to Advocate for Meaningful Reform.* https://lmu.app.box.com/s/ho3rp9qdbmn9aip8fy8dmmukjjgw5yyc

Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence. (2012). *Report of the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence.* County of Los Angeles. https://ccjv.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CCJV-Report.pdf

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. (2023). *Deputy Gangs: Support for the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission's Recommendations to Eradicate Deputy Gangs in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.* https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/178530.pdf

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. (1992). *A Report by Special Counsel James G. Kolts & Staff.* https://clearinghouse.net/doc/10910/

Office of the Inspector General, County of Los Angeles. (2024). *Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Legal Compliance: Deputy Gangs.* https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/46e798fa-65b4-4410-ab42-7ae20adbb95c/Los%20Angeles%20County%20Sheriff%27s%20Department%27s%20Legal%20Compliance%20-%20Deputy%20Gangs.pdf

Peterson, S., Barnes-Proby, D., Bouskill, K. E., Davis, L. M., Mizel, M. L., Weidmer, B. A., Leamon, I., Mendoza-Graf, A., Strawn, M., Snoke, J., & Goode, T. (2021). *Understanding Subgroups Within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department: Community and Department Perceptions with Recommendations for Change.* RAND Corporation. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA616-1.html

Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, County of Los Angeles. (n.d.). *Deputy Gangs.* County of Los Angeles. https://coc.lacounty.gov/deputy-gangs/

Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission County of Los Angeles. (2023). *Report and Recommendations of the Special Counsel to Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission Regarding Deputy Gangs and Deputy Cliques in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.* https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/commissionpublications/report/1138014_DeputyGangsSpecialCounselReporttoCOC3.2.2023.PDF.PDF

United States Commission on Civil Rights. (1999). *Racial and ethnic tensions in American communities: Poverty, inequality, and discrimination. Vol. V. The Los Angeles Report.* https://www.usccr.gov/files/historical/1999/99-014.pdf



**Suggested Citation:** Turner III, D.C., Jones Jolivet, T., Vestal, M., Tso, M., Brewington, J., Castle, C., & Cohen, A. (2026). *"How Much Does a Dollar Cost?": An Analysis of LASD Deputy Gangs and County Settlements (1990–2021)* Million Dollar Hoods Project, University of California, Los Angeles.

**Release Date:** November 10, 2026
**Report Design:** Mariah Tso **Report Template:** Alex Haro