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FJP Statement on LA DA George Gascón Retaining Former Acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal in Lawsuit Seeking to Halt Commonsense Criminal Justice Reforms

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón retaining former acting U.S. Solicitor General Neal Katyal to represent the DA's office in a lawsuit brought by the Association of Deputy District Attorneys for Los Angeles County as they seek to bar DA Gascón from implementing new reforms consistent with the agenda the community elected him to promote and that he enacted upon assumption of office:

"The issues in this case have massive implications for the future of criminal justice in California and beyond. For decades, prosecutors have used their discretion to increase sentences and impose harsh penalties that disproportionately impact communities of color. So one can and should naturally ask why that very same discretion should not now extend to a prosecutor who seeks to roll back dated and destructive sentencing practices that have fueled mass incarceration at great human and financial cost without making us any safer?

District Attorney Gascón was elected to implement a new approach to criminal justice that is overwhelmingly supported by LA County voters. And his changes are consistent with data, common sense and the approaches embraced by other nations that have not seen the dramatic rise in incarceration experienced by our country over the past few decades. Efforts to prevent him from bringing about long overdue reforms aren't just an attack on prosecutorial discretion, they're an attack on our community and our democratic process.

The stakes are high, and Mr. Katyal is well-equipped to represent the people's interests."

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).