



## NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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**ALLISON HALEY**  
District Attorney

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ABUSER CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER

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Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today:

On August 6, 2019, Adam Douglas Branks, aged 30, was convicted of fourteen counts and four special allegations by a Napa County jury. Defendant was found guilty of attempted murder, kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, two counts of inflicting injury on a dating partner, dissuading a victim from reporting a crime, making criminal threats, evading a peace officer with wanton disregard for safety, vandalism, resisting an executive officer, and resisting arrest. The jury also found true multiple special allegations, including that the defendant personally used a vehicle as a deadly weapon and caused great bodily injury to the victim. The Honorable Judge Scott Young presided over the seven-day jury trial in Napa Superior Court.

The convictions are a result of a continuous course of conduct where the defendant tormented the victim and kept her in fear for several months, driving her throughout Marin, Solano and Napa counties, threatening her family, and physically abusing her. In December 2018, defendant stabbed the victim in the leg with a knife and refused to get her to medical treatment. Two days later, defendant became enraged and punched her repeatedly as he drove her car. The victim tried to escape, but he pulled her back inside the car by her hair. When law enforcement tried to conduct a traffic stop, defendant led police on a high-speed chase in excess of 100 mph, endangering countless citizens and law enforcement. When defendant slowed the car to 20 mph, the victim jumped from the moving vehicle and ran towards patrol cars for safety. Defendant rammed the patrol car behind him, turned and drove straight at the victim, attempting to run her over with her own car. Napa County Sheriff's Office deputies intervened, changing the trajectory of the car and saving the victim's life. Defendant fled the car on foot and became stuck in the mud, prompting rescue by a California Highway Patrol helicopter. Defendant was transported to a local hospital where he became combative with officers, threatening to kill them and attempted to escape.

During the jury trial, multiple law enforcement officers and the surviving domestic violence victim testified against him. The case was prosecuted by Napa County Deputy District Attorney Aimee McLeod who said:

"This was an atrocious case of domestic abuse that encompassed multiple counties. It is extremely difficult for victims in these types of cases to testify to intimate details of their lives and describe emotional and physical abuse at the hands of someone they once loved. It took great bravery for the

victim to tell her story to a room full of strangers. In addition, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our law enforcement for their heroism that day. Their response to this incident saved not only the life of the victim, but also protected the public by apprehending such a dangerous criminal.”

Napa County Sheriff’s Office Detective Christopher Dameron led the investigation. The response and investigation of this case involved multiple agencies including the California Highway Patrol. Napa County District Attorney Investigator Melissa Kelley assisted in the prosecution. Victim Advocate Sal Alvarez provided advocacy for the domestic violence survivor.

Defendant is being held without bail. He faces over 40 years in state prison. Defendant will be back in court for a sentencing hearing on October 7, 2019 at 8:30 in Department E.

Any questions regarding this case may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.