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## Southern California

# Orange County Taps Firm to Respond to DA Probe

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**S**ANTA ANA — A San Leandro municipal law firm was selected Tuesday to conduct the delicate task of crafting a response to a grand jury investigation of District Attorney Tony Rackauckas.

The 50-attorney firm of Meyers Nave Riback Silver & Wilson also will analyze the grand jury's June 26 report, which accused Rackauckas of mismanaging county resources, practicing rampant nepotism and interfering in criminal cases on behalf of campaign contributors. The district attorney has strongly denied the charges.

Meyers Nave, which beat out six other applicants for the job, had been the top choice of the Orange County counsel's office because of its broad range of experience in matters relevant to the investigation. The firm's hundreds of clients include the counties of San Francisco, Oakland, Alameda and

San Diego, UCLA and the Los Angeles Redevelopment Agency.

County attorneys said they didn't have the time or resources to respond to the grand jury themselves.

The county Board of Supervisors made its selection at its regular meeting Tuesday. The contract has not been signed, and Orange County Counsel Benjamin P. de Mayo said a target completion date has not been set. The Board of Supervisors has until Sept. 23 to respond to the grand jury report.

The firm will provide three partners — each with knowledge of different areas of the law — who will bill the county at an hourly rate of \$275 each, de Mayo said. One partner is a former city attorney with experience in responding to grand jury reports.

The second is a former deputy district attorney, and the third is a human resources and personnel law expert, de Mayo said.

Steven Meyers, the firm's managing partner, declined comment on the specifics of the firm's proposal, saying it would be inappropriate to discuss work that

hasn't even begun.

The firm responded to the county's request for proposals not only because the work sounded interesting but also because it fit with the firm's areas of expertise, Meyers explained.

"We're always interested in representing public agencies, especially ones we have not represented in the past," he said. "The issues presented that we'll be working on are issues similar to ones we've handled in the past, but not with a district attorney's office."

Meyers said his firm does not have any conflict of interest with Rackauckas or the county. The firm worked in Orange County only twice, both times in the 1990s, representing Irvine in a land use matter and the city of Orange in an investment matter, Meyers said.

Founded in 1986, Meyers Nave Riback Silver & Wilson specializes in public agency and administrative law, with an emphasis on labor and employment and political and elections law. The firm has additional offices in Santa Rosa, San Francisco and Stockton.