

Bay Area DAs receiving \$4M to battle wage theft

BY DAVID HERNANDEZ

The state has awarded the Bay Area nearly \$4 million in grants to prosecute wage theft, officials said.

The grants will also enable prosecutors to offer resources to address exploitive labor industry trends, barriers that workers confront in reporting violations and obstacles to holding perpetrators accountable, according to the California Department of Industrial Relations and the Labor Commissioner's Office.

"Wage theft is a persistent problem, and this funding helps address it in local communities across our state," Labor Commissioner Lilia García-Brower said in a statement.

In the Bay Area, the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office was granted \$720,000, the Oakland City Attorney's Office was awarded \$426,000, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office was allocated \$336,000, the San Francisco City Attorney's Office was given \$410,000 and the San Francisco District Attorney's Office was granted \$160,000.

The other prosecutors in the Bay Area are the Napa County District Attorney's Office, which was granted \$103,000; the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, which was allocated \$739,000; Santa Clara County Counsel, which was awarded \$679,000; and the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office, which was granted \$147,000.

The Labor Commissioner's Office investigates allegations of illegal and unfair business practices, including wage theft.

"We look forward to continuing our work with public prosecutors, community organizations and industry leaders to eliminate this serious and costly crime," García-Brower said.

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