JUSTICE IS ONLY AS JUST AS YOUR DA

A DA HAS A DUTY TO "SEEK JUSTICE...NOT MERELY TO CONVICT."
--AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS FOR THE PROSECUTION FUNCTION

LA County has the largest local prosecutor's office in the country--the cases filed here make up 25% of all criminal/juvenile cases filed in California.

DAs have absolute immunity, which means they can never be sued for any abuse/misuse of their power.

USE THE POWER OF YOUR VOTE ON MARCH 3, 2020 TO VOTE FOR A DA WHO REFLECTS YOUR VALUES
For more information: www.dajusticecoalition.org

THE POWER OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CHARGING

POLICE HAVE THE POWER TO ARREST, BUT ONLY THE DA HAS THE POWER TO FILE CRIMINAL CHARGES -- OR DECIDE NOT TO CHARGE AT ALL.

BAIL

IN MOST CASES, THE DA CAN RECOMMEND TO A JUDGE THAT A PERSON BE RELEASED BEFORE TRIAL WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY CASH BAIL.

SENTENCING

DAS INFLUENCE WHAT SOMEONE'S PUNISHMENT WILL BE BY CHOOSING WHAT TO CHARGE AND MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE JUDGE AFTER A CONVICTION.

PLEA BARGAINING

The DA decides whether or not to press charges against law enforcement. Not one law enforcement officer in LA County has been charged for murder in 7 years.

IMMIGRATION

Even minor criminal charges can have major consequences for immigrant communities. The DA can decide to use their power to help keep families together.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

In LA, over 80% of all felonies end with plea bargains. The DA has the power to choose whether to offer a plea bargain and what kind to offer to an accused person.
Prosecute?

No

Dismiss the case for ANY reason: She may think A was a foolish kid, that it was mutual combat, etc.

No conviction → Go home!

Yes

Charge a misdemeanor
Misdemeanor battery = Probation & maximum 6 months in jail

If convicted → Probation & possible jail

Yes

Charge a felony
Assault with Deadly Weapon = Possible strike on A's record and maximum 4 years in prison

If convicted → Probation & possible prison

POST-CONVICTION:

PROBATION AND PAROLE:
A DA's power lasts beyond sentencing. DAs also provide recommendations for probation terms, which can include virtually unmeetable conditions. DAs also have the ability to oppose someone's release on parole.

CONVICTIO, INTEGRITY UNITS:
The National Registry of Exonerations lists over 2,500 exonerations since 1989 and more than 22,000 YEARS LOST to prison. DAs can establish conviction integrity units that investigate past cases in order to correct wrongs.