

# Bank Profits Soar While D.A. Pushes \$100,000 Trials

## “Conspiracy” Update: Bathrobe and Teddy Bear Banished

A Sentinel article reported today that “Bank earnings hit a 5-year high”, rising 40% over last year. Banks, including Wells Fargo, whose assets exceeding \$10 billion accounted for 84% of last year's earnings, though making up 1.4% of the nation's banks. Has City Council removed our \$ from the big banks? Who knows?!

In Courtroom 7, Judge Symons directed **Occupy Santa Cruz [OSC]** activist Robert Norse, also a long time-homeless rights advocate, to take off his customary black button-covered bathrobe, leave outside “**Eddie, Jr.**”, his pint-sized teddy bear, and return with more respectful attire. Though he previously wore the robe and bear to court last week before Symons, she overruled his dramatizing the absurd city and state Sleeping Bans against the homeless. Local courts have consistently upheld laws that criminalize homeless sleep. Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno, and more recently Daytona Beach and the nation of India have rejected such laws.

Meanwhile **D.A. Bob Lee** continues his selective and harassing prosecution of OSC activists on inflated and inflammatory charges of “conspiracy”, “vandalism” and “trespass”. The charges appear to be **SCPD** payback for the embarrassing though brief and peaceful occupation of a 3 ½ year vacant bank building downtown, leased by **Wells Fargo Bank**, a major predatory lender, as speculative investment.

Five of the eleven charged are reporters for alternative media. Total charges: 44; Total Felony charges: 22 Our District Attorney's Office may now lead the country as the False Felony Fabricating Capital of the Country, with Santa Cruz's **D.A. Bob Lee** charging more felonies against OSC activists than any other city, including Oakland and New York. Estimated cost: \$100,000 and rising.

**Ed Frey, Gary Johnson, Linda Lemaster, & Chris Doyon**, the PeaceCamp Four face 6 months in jail for protesting the City's Sleeping Ban with **Judge John Gallagher's** backing the unconstitutionally vague PC 647e .

## Support Activists Desiree Foster and Becky Johnson Arraignments 8:15 AM Dept. 7 Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Other Court Dates

- Hearing to Loosen O.R. Restrictions: **Alex Darocy** and **Bradley Stuart** 8:15 AM D-7 3-1
- Preliminary Hearing for **Becky Johnson** 8:30 AM Dept. 7 Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>
- Arraignment: **Robert Norse** 8:15 AM Dept. 7 Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>
- Jury Trial for **Gary Johnson** 9 AM Monday March 19<sup>th</sup> Dept. 2

### Other Local Protest and Solidarity & Events Actions:

- Occupy Education: Strike at UCSC, Tent University at Base of Campus March 1<sup>st</sup> 4:30 AM
- Protests and Workshops Throughout the Day: Possible Homeless Encampment March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Occupy Santa Cruz Supports the UCSC General Assembly 6:30 PM March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Occupy Martial Law Protest March 3<sup>rd</sup> 4 PM from Occupiplaza to the Town Clock
- March Against Foreclosure Fraud March 11<sup>th</sup> 1 PM Courthouse steps on Water St.
- Mid-March: **Food Not Bombs** co-founder Keith McHenry speaks and marches TBA
- April 1 National Day of Action for the Homeless Right to Exist: Housekeys not Handcuffs TBA

**D.A. Bob Lee:** Drop all charges against the Santa Cruz Eleven & the PeaceCamp Four ! 831-454-2400

**OSC** meets Tuesdays & Thursdays at 6 PM, Saturdays 2 PM on the steps of the County courthouse; Sundays at Main Post Office

More on **OSC** at <http://occupysantacruz.org/> & <http://www.facebook.com/groups/occupysantacruz/>

**HUFF** meets Wednesdays 10 AM to noon at the Sub Rosa Cafe at 703 Pacific Ave.

**Free Radio Santa Cruz** Updates Sundays 9:30 AM to 1 PM, 6 PM- 8 PM, Tuesdays 6-9 PM, Thursdays 6-8 PM 427-3772

Flier by Norse of HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) 831-423-4833 [www.huffsantacruz.org](http://www.huffsantacruz.org) 309 Cedar PMB #14B S.C. 2-29-12