



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



MICHAEL L. RAMSEY
District Attorney

MARK MURPHY
Chief Deputy District Attorney

JASON WINES
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 11, 2021

CSUC PROFESSOR CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF CHILD PORN

The Butte County District Attorney's Office announced it has completed its review of reports alleging a Chico university professor possessed approximately a hundred images of child porn and has filed a felony criminal complaint charging him with possession of child porn.

Laird Easton, 64, a professor of history at CSUC was arrested after a search and arrest warrant was issued by a local judge based on a sheriff's office investigation, which disclosed a person tied to Laird's personal and university email accounts had downloaded and uploaded child porn images from/to the internet.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Easton was arrested at his Chico home on January 21, 2021 and the home was searched for electronic devices and cell phones. At the same time, Chico University Police searched Laird's university office computers. Ramsey said after his arrest, Laird was transported to the Butte County Jail where he later posted a \$75,000 bail bond and was released.

Ramsey said a subsequent extensive forensic download of Easton's electronic devices seized during the search warrants revealed the suspected child porn images.

Ramsey said Laird is scheduled for arraignment in Butte County on the possession charge on April 9, 2021. He faces a maximum of three years in state prison.

