



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**MICHAEL L. RAMSEY**  
District Attorney

**MARK MURPHY**  
Chief Deputy District Attorney

**JUAN DIAZ**  
Chief Investigator

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
December 20, 2019

### **JURY FINDS MAN GUILTY OF ASSAULT ON CHICO STATE PROFESSOR**

A Butte County jury today found a Chico man guilty of a brutal assault on a Chico State professor in his home in October of 2017.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Ryan Edgar Wayne Muscat, 35, was convicted by a nine-man / three-woman jury today for the assault that occurred in October of 2017 at the professor's home in Chico where Muscat was a boarder. The jury convicted Muscat of felony assault causing serious bodily harm. The jury also found Muscat had previously suffered a previous felony "strike" conviction for robbery in Orange County in 2006.

Ramsey said the assault victim was a 59-year-old CSUC science professor who had rented a room in his home to Muscat as a favor to a friend who was an employer of Muscat. The professor had begun to evict Muscat for his alcohol and drug use when Muscat attacked him during the early morning hours of October 29, 2017. The professor suffered severe and permanently disabling injuries to his face, shoulder and brain.

Ramsey said Muscat faces up to 24 years 8 months in state prison when he is sentenced. However sentencing has been postponed awaiting the setting of trials next month on two other criminal cases alleged to have been committed by Muscat. Ramsey said Muscat faces felony charges for carrying a concealed knife in September of 2018 and for throwing urine on Butte County Jail correctional officers while in the jail in October of 2018.