



## American Board of Trial Advocates

San Bernardino/Riverside Chapter

*To Promote the Art of Advocacy  
and the Efficient Administration of Justice*

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### **FACTS MATTER: GET THE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE PICTURE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SEPTEMBER 4, 2025**

### **THE TRAGIC DEATH OF BABY EMMANUEL HARO AND THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO HIS DISAPPEARANCE Case No. BAF2101265-2**

On behalf of the San Bernardino/Riverside Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), we wish to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Baby Emmanuel Haro.

Unfortunately, recent misinformation regarding a San Bernardino Judge has cast him into a false light in the public eye, and he has been the focus of extreme anger and hateful comments, all because recent press releases have accused him of “outrageous error in judgment” and that Baby Haro would still be with us had this judge just “done his job!” This can be no further from the truth, which we will explain later in more detail.

Sitting Judges are prohibited from making comments about pending cases and are severely limited in responding to criticism about the handling of specific cases involving criminal law. It is, therefore, important for attorneys and others involved in our judicial system to provide insight whenever possible regarding certain rulings in cases.

The San Bernardino/Riverside Chapter of ABOTA is not a political organization; it does not comment on lawyers representing either plaintiff or defense interests, but rather we are dedicated to the preservation of an Independent Judiciary and the right to a trial by jury guaranteed by the Seventh Amendment of the United States Constitution.

As a national, state, and local organization, ABOTA has developed specific protocols to respond to what would amount to unfair criticisms of local judges.

We wish to state clearly that ABOTA respects and supports the public’s First Amendment right to criticize and speak on items of public interest, including issues related to appropriate sentencing. However, we strongly oppose efforts to portray judges in a false light in the public eye without knowing all the facts and what has actually occurred.

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Unfortunately, there have been serious and damaging misstatements by certain public officials that have been made to the press about the Judge's alleged mishandling of a previous criminal case involving defendant, father, Jake Haro, the person accused of killing baby Emmanuel Haro. In particular, questions have been raised in the handling of this previous case, also involving a minor child (Carolina, 10 weeks old), with an accusation that the judge committed "outrageous error in judgment" and "had the judge done his job," baby Haro would still be alive. These false accusations by public officials appear to be an attempt to deflect the real reason for the "breakdown in the justice system.

In order to set the record straight, below are the most important facts and statements that ABOTA feels must be addressed as to the handling of the previous criminal case involving baby Emanuel's sister, Carolina:

The crime involving baby Carolina Haro, (Emmanuel Haro's sister), occurred in October 2018. After Hemet Officer Alvarez completed his investigation on June 18, 2019, he forwarded it to the Riverside DA's office and recommended that charges be filed against Jake Haro. However, the Riverside DA did not file its criminal complaint until October 5, 2021, 2 years and 4 months after Officer Alvarez provided the Riverside DA with the investigation in which he set forth Baby Carolina's injuries, to wit as follows:

- **Healing Fractures**
  - Posterior lateral left 6th & 7th ribs
  - Posterior 10th–12th ribs
  - Tibia, right leg
- **Acute Fractures**
  - Posterior left 5<sup>th</sup> rib
  - Parietal bone (skull)
- **Brain Hemorrhage**
- **Cervical Spine Injury**
- **Retinal Hemorrhage**
- **Significant Prevertebral Soft Tissue Swelling of the Neck**



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As mentioned above, the Riverside District Attorney waited for 2 years and 4 months before filing the complaint. The complaint was filed only one week before the Statute of Limitations of 3 years. Also, notwithstanding knowledge of the above injuries, the complaint did not allege **Great Bodily Injury (GBI)**. This allegation in the complaint would have precluded any judge from accepting defendant's plea to the court as was done in this case.

The complaint was never amended to include Great Bodily Injury, despite the DA having more than 2 years to review all medical records. In addition, the DA did not fully advise the court of the seriousness of the injuries.

On January 12, 2022, defendant Jake Haro was arraigned wherein he pled not guilty and the matter was continued. The DA did not oppose a continuance. Defendant was out of custody on bond.

Hearings on March 24, 2022, May 31, July 11, September 19, February 23, April 3, and May 26, 2023, were all continued. The DA did not oppose a continuance. Up to this time, there were eight unopposed continuances total while the defendant remained out of custody.

On June 8, 2023, the defendant, while out of custody, pled to the court and was sentenced to six years in prison, suspended, eighteen months in county jail, and four years probation.

Approximately one year later, in early July 2024, the defendant violated his probation but still was not taken into custody. The DA did not immediately seek a remand to custody of defendant Haro when they filed their Violation of Probation petition (VOP).

The DA did not oppose continuances of the VOP hearing on August 9, 2024, October 7, December 1, April 25, 2025, and July 2, 2025. It was not until August 26, 2025, that bail was revoked. This amounted to five more continuances, for a total of thirteen unopposed continuances.

Jake Haro remained out of custody while awaiting the VOP hearing and it was at this time that Baby Emanuel was allegedly murdered.



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We bring these facts to the public's attention because serious and credible threats have been made against this Judge for exercising his judicial discretion as allowed under the law.

Our system of justice cannot survive if we allow misinformation to go on without looking at the facts and all the delays leading up to today. Jake Haro's Violation of Probation has been pending for over one and a half years, and his VOP hearing is finally set for September 4, 2024, which has been continued even further!

It appears, from the facts, that the Riverside DA has taken a passive approach to the handling of this serious matter and now points the finger at the Judge who took the plea back on 6/8/23. We cannot stand idly by while misinformation and blame are focused on the judicial officer. The truth is that the Judge exercised his judicial discretion, which was totally appropriate. Other public officials should not have attacked the judge when the District Attorney had acted passively in the handling of this matter.

Comments by public officials claiming that this was an "outrageous error in judgment," "had the judge done his job this would never have occurred," and "San Bernardino Judges favor defendants over the victims" appear to be made for political reasons and clearly place the role of the judiciary in a false light in the public eye.

ABOTA's obligation is to defend our judiciary against false and unfair criticism, and we encourage the public to question and challenge the misinformation being spread for what appears to be political gain.

Please know what really happened before you pass blame to the judge, who was only doing his job.

We stand by these facts, and we welcome any questions and or statements. It is factually clear that the judge acted and ruled in this manner based on the information that was presented at the time the Guilty Plea was taken.