



NEWS RELEASE

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DRIVER SENTENCED IN VEHICULAR HOMICIDE CASE

The woman who hit and killed a 21-year-old valet last January and then fled the scene was sentenced to the maximum possible sentence today in Denver District Court.

Norma Vera-Nolasco (dob: 06-28-79) pleaded guilty earlier to vehicular homicide (F3). In an emotional hearing today, Denver District Court Judge Martin Egelhoff sentenced her to 12 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

On January 22, 2011, Vera-Nolasco was driving drunk when she crashed into Jose Medina at 9th and Lincoln and then fled the scene. She later enlisted the help of several others to hide from police and was on a plane bound for Mexico when she was taken into custody in Arizona.

Deputy District Attorney Rebekah Melnick cited numerous aggravating factors in arguing for the maximum sentence, as did several family members including the victim's mother. Vera-Nolasco also spoke briefly through an interpreter, telling the Court she was sorry and asking the family for forgiveness.

This was the final hearing in connection with the case; other co-defendants have already pleaded guilty and are serving their sentences.

Guadalupe Bastida (dob: 11-12-62) and **Yolanda Bastida-Nolasco** (dob: 03-10-67) pleaded guilty to one count each of aiding escape (M1). Bastida was sentenced to 545 days in jail. Bastida-Nolasco was sentenced to 365 days in jail. **Eliu Montes-Garcia** (dob: 09-13-92) pleaded guilty to accessory to crime (F5) and was sentenced to 3 years in prison with a sentence reconsideration after 120 days.