

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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For further information contact:

Madelaine Vitale 609-909-7855

609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING – A Hammonton man was sentenced to three years in New Jersey State Prison today in connection with a November 2008 drunken driving crash that left four people injured, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Domingo Quintero, 28, entered a guilty plea in September to assault by auto, driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, and possessing an open container of alcohol in a vehicle for the Nov. 21, 2008 crash. Quintero was traveling south on Route 54 in Hammonton at 8:30 p.m. when he slammed into the back of a vehicle driven by Patricia Arena, of Hammonton. The impact propelled Arena's vehicle into oncoming traffic causing her to collide with a third vehicle, driven by Rebecca Crema, of Port Republic. The force of the collision caused Arena's vehicle to flip over. Hammonton police and fire personnel responded. Arena was taken to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, City Campus, and treated for serious injuries requiring surgery to her leg. Crema and the two occupants in her vehicle were treated at an area hospital and released. Quintero was uninjured, according to Assistant Prosecutor John Flammer.

Quintero was arrested at the scene. An investigation revealed that the defendant's blood alcohol concentration was a .19, more than double the legal limit. Quintero was indicted in February.

Prior to the Judge imposing the sentence, he heard from Patricia Arena. She stated that her life has been changed forever by this incident. She continues to suffer from her injuries, which still require rehabilitative treatment, Flammer said.

The defendant apologized for his actions and to all of the people that he hurt and stated he was in the process of getting help for his substance abuse issues, Flammer said.

"Hopefully this sentence will serve as a deterrent to others who may be tempted to drink and drive during this holiday season or at any time and realize that the consequences of such action can not only mean jail time, but serious injury or death to innocent victims," Flammer said.

Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo presided over the sentencing.

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.