

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2021

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FJP Statement on CA Supreme Court Ruling in *O.G. v. Superior Court of Ventura County* regarding SB 1391

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to the ruling issued today by the California Supreme Court in the lawsuit challenging California Senate Bill 1391. SB 1391 took effect January 1, 2019, and ensures that 14- and 15-year-olds who commit crimes are held accountable through the juvenile justice system, where the focus is more rehabilitative than punitive, and that they have greater access to supports and programming that will put them on a positive future trajectory:

“I applaud the California Supreme Court’s [unanimous decision](#) to uphold Senate Bill 1391. This vitally important law raises the minimum age of adult prosecution to 16 and recognizes both the capacity for change in every young person and the importance of keeping kids out of the adult criminal legal system. SB 1391 is rooted in science and evidence on what works best for rehabilitation of young people; it promotes sensible approaches that reduce crime and promote accountability.

Sadly, some District Attorneys in California refused to follow SB 1391 and sought, instead, to challenge this sensible enactment. Ignoring evidence and science, these challenges sought to revive the fear-based policymaking of past decades that caused significant damage to youth as well as the broader public. DAs are responsible for promoting safer and healthier communities, and [SB 1391 does just that](#).

Raising the age of adult prosecution not only protects vulnerable youth from the violence and abuse that are endemic to adult prisons, but it also ensures that they receive developmentally-appropriate treatment and services. That leaves young people better equipped to become successful members of our communities upon release and thus advances public safety. Ultimately, we all benefit when we give young people second chances and the support they need to change – and today’s decision will continue to make that pathway possible.”

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).