

prosecutors be independent from its investigative and adjudicatory arms. Kopp had tried to forge an accord with Wilson administration officials, and they reportedly suggested a possible compromise on the discipline limitations. But Democrats reportedly opposed the changes. Kopp then decided to remove the sections from his bill. The restrictions were added to Kopp's SB1623 following the CJP's controversial

The restrictions also would prohibit the CJP from taking action against jurists solely because of a judicial decision or administrative act found to be legally erroneous. Neither prohibition would apply if decisions or opinions otherwise violate ethical canons. Proponents of the restrictions and critics of the CJP's action in Kline's case contend disciplining judges for decisions and opinions would chill the exercise of judi-

unique and extraordinary cases, could petition the Supreme Court to grant direct review. That could have applied to the case in which Kline dissented, since parties who reach stipulated reversals of trial court judgments never would seek high court review of their cases. Democrats' enthusiasm for SB1623 may wither without the provisions dubbed "the Kline fix." A broader version See CJP, Page 7

LAW ENFORCEMENT

'Copcam' to Go on Sheriffs' Patrol

■ The small video cameras are intended to act as 'neutral' observers.

By Lauren Blau
Daily Journal Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — Sheriff's deputies on patrol in some areas will start wearing small video cameras in an attempt to provide information about what occurs during traffic stops and other contact between law enforcement and the public, Sheriff Sherman Block announced Wednesday.

Called the "copcam," the boxlike cameras will be used starting in September by 20 patrol units at the Century, Norwalk and Santa Clarita Valley sheriff's stations, Block said at his monthly news conference at sheriff's headquarters in Monterey Park.

"The greatest impact I believe [is the cameras] will enable us to deal with complaints, particularly if someone claims ...

an effect of a neutral observer." Block said that deputies will have the body cameras as well as cameras inside their patrol cars and can choose which one to use. The department has used the car cameras on an experimental basis in the past.

Deputy Steve Perez said one camera has been in use at the Century station since early July. Nineteen others are expected to be delivered to the department Sept. 1.

"It's already cleared up a few personnel complaints that were determined to be unfounded as a result of reviewing the videotapes," Perez said.

Because only some of the officers will have the cameras, their use will be discretionary, the sheriff said. But he offered

this advice: "if I were a deputy in the field, I would turn that camera on every time I made a contact with anyone ... because there is nothing lost if you use it."

Deputies that have the equipment and do not use either camera will be investigated if there is a confrontational situation and someone makes a complaint, he said.

The cameras also may help deputies build cases against suspects, he said.

"As a deputy looks through a car perhaps for contraband or evidence of a crime or whatever," Block said, "you can record what's going on at the same time to show that the search was legal ... that the contraband or evidence recovered will be admissible in court, and all of that is extremely important, on vehicle stops, particularly."

Volunteer Gets \$10 Million for Injuries

By Denise Levin
Daily Journal Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — A \$10 million jury verdict has been awarded in Superior Court to a woman who was critically injured when the church van in which she was riding blew a tire, flipped and landed on top of her.

Shirlee Fuller, 39, was a volunteer at Bethany Apostolic Church in South-Central Los Angeles when she was riding in the church van Aug. 4, 1993, en route to the National Pentecostal Assembly of the World in Cleveland. The accident occurred in New Mexico. *Fuller v. Hunt*, BC109995.

According to Fuller's attorney, Brian Panish of Greene, Broillet, Taylor, Wheeler & Panish, the church mechanic recommended that all four tires be replaced the day before the trip. However, a church administrator said a worker at Fremont Tire Store told him only three needed changing.

It was the fourth, unchanged tire that blew, Panish said.

During a seven-week trial before Judge Henry W. Shatford in the Central Civil West courthouse, the church's attorney tried to shift blame for the accident to the tire store and manufacturer, but the tire store denied it made any claim that the fourth tire was roadworthy. The jury reached its verdict Tuesday.

Jack Tannenbaum, Bethany's attorney, could not be reached for comment.

As a result of the accident, Fuller was hospitalized for several months in New Mexico and has had multiple surgeries, with more to come, Panish said in a prepared statement. She is in constant pain and unable to walk without assistance.

"The church has continually denied responsibility for the catastrophic injuries they caused and the jury has rightfully assessed responsibility and damages," Panish said.

... to the use of the cameras.
"I think it's a good idea," Eliasberg said.
"It definitely increases the level of accountability for police officers. ... It has