



## WHITMAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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### MEDIA RELEASE

June 2, 2021

**Denis P. Tracy**  
Prosecuting Attorney

Today, the Whitman County Prosecutor filed criminal charges of Furnishing Liquor To Minors against 15 members, or former members, of the Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) fraternity at WSU. The young men are each charged with supplying liquor to one or more pledges at a fraternity event that was part of an initiation process at the fraternity.

**Dan LeBeau**  
Chief Deputy Prosecutor

The charges relate to an investigation by the Pullman Police Department into the death of Sam Martinez, a pledge at the fraternity. Mr. Martinez died from alcohol poisoning on November 12, 2019, after he participated in the fraternity event. The police investigation was extensive and was turned over to the prosecutor in February of 2021.

**Wendy Lierman**  
Senior Deputy Prosecutor

Furnishing Liquor to Minors is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine. The defendants will be summoned to appear in the Whitman County District Court.

**Tessa Scholl**  
Senior Deputy Prosecutor

The prosecutor expects to make further statements regarding these cases after they are concluded.

**Lindsy Alcantar**  
Deputy Prosecutor

It should be noted that the charge is merely an accusation and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

**Kristina Cooper**  
Office Administrator and  
Victim/Witness Coordinator

  
-Denis Tracy  
Whitman County Prosecutor