

Michael Jackson's family launching legal bid to bump up charges against Dr Conrad Murray

Exclusive By [Ryan Parry 22/02/2010](#)

MICHAEL Jackson's family is set to launch an audacious legal bid to have the charges against Dr Conrad Murray bumped up.

Lawyers representing the Jackson family will file an application with Los Angeles District Attorney Steven Cooley requesting stronger charges in the coming weeks.

Dr Murray - who was Jackson's personal physician - has been officially charged with involuntary manslaughter over the death of the King of Pop last year.

He was bailed for \$48,000 after pleading not guilty to "unlawfully" killing the star, at a court in LA earlier this month.

But now the Jacksons want the DA to raise the charge to homicide which would carry a more severe jail term.

Jackson's father, Joe, who is behind the application, is furious that the doctor could potentially "get away" with the death of his son.

He told the Mirror: "I am seeking justice for my son. I am heartbroken about his death.

"Millions of people around the world know that the charges brought against the doctor are not sufficient, and the evidence is overwhelming that the doctor was reckless.

"My son's life was taken from him, by the continuous administration of dangerous drugs."

According to Joe Jackson's lawyer Brian Oxman, charges can be changed at any time by the DA.

He says that during Jackson's molestation trial in 2005 in which he was accused of abusing 13-year-old Gavin Arvizo - the prosecution successfully applied to the DA to have the charges against the star increased.

And now Mr Oxman says the Jackson family plans a similar move and has launched a Change the Charges campaign to get justice for the dead singer.

He said: "The family is trying to figure out what can be done and making a request to the District Attorney is definitely an option we are looking at.

"I asked people from all around the world to email the DA and tell Steven Cooley that the charges are not enough and need to be changed.

"This is not unheard of. During the Michael Jackson case in Santa Maria, he was charged with a complaint and then the charges were increased four months later. District Attorneys change the charges all the time."

Mr Oxman says the Jackson family were very upset after Dr Murray's hearing earlier this month.

Oxman - Joe Jackson's attorney and family confidante for 23 years and Kathryn Milofsky, who works closely on Jackson-related projects - were overwhelmed by the support shown by fans who attended the Michael Jackson European Convention, organised by MJPortal (www.mjportal.com) and the Legend Music Awards (www.legendmusicawards.org) earlier this month.

"The fans are also very hurt, everyone sees these charges as a slap on the wrist and an insult to everyone who loved Michael Jackson," he said.

"This is a doctor who provided medication over and over and over, and I in particular warned the family, warned the people around Michael, that this is dangerous, this is going to kill him.

"And when he dies the explanation is, oh it was an accident, this was not an accident.

"This was a dangerous game of Russian roulette with all six chambers of the gun containing a bullet."

Dr Murray's lawyer, Edward Chernoff, has stressed the 56-year-old intends "to keep practising medicine".

Under the terms of his bail the cardiologist is allowed to continue practising, but cannot use certain drugs.

Dr Murray is licensed to practise medicine in Nevada, Texas and California, although the California Medical Board is preparing to seek removal of his licence there.

Jackson died at his home on 25 June last year at the age of 50. His death was ruled as homicide, mainly caused by the powerful sedative Propofol.

Dr Murray had been hired as Jackson's personal physician last spring as the singer prepared for his comeback concerts in London.

If convicted of involuntary manslaughter the doctor may face four years in jail.

He is due back in court for a hearing on April 5.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2010/02/22/jacko-dad-s-charges-bid-115875-22060676/>