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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wells Fargo Invests \$10,000 in
Yolo County Family Justice Center**

Donation coincides with tomorrow's sentencing in spousal murder case.

(Woodland, CA) – September 7, 2011 - Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig, Supervisor Jim Provenza, and Sheriff Ed Prieto announced today that Wells Fargo & Company has awarded a \$10,000 grant to the new Yolo County Family Justice Center in support of the multi-disciplinary team of professionals who work together, under one roof, to provide coordinated services to victims of family violence.

In ninety-six percent of domestic violence murders, the victim does not receive any assistance, support or services. One such case involves a recent homicide in Yolo County in which 41-year-old Ignacio Favela Mendoza of Yuba City murdered his wife on May 26, 2007. On August 11, 2011, a Yolo County Jury found Mendoza guilty of First degree murder. Mendoza will be sentenced by the Honorable David Rosenberg tomorrow, September 8, 2011, at 8:30 am in Department 4 of the Yolo County Superior Court.

The Yolo County Family Justice Center provides an avenue for victims of domestic violence to find the necessary services that might prevent them from becoming a Yolo County murder victim. Supervisor Jim Provenza explains that, "In these tough budget times, we are working together in unprecedented ways to coordinate resources to better serve victims of family violence and protect our community." District Attorney Jeff Reisig agreed, "We can't settle for business as usual, and so we're finding more effective ways to ensure justice is served. Wells Fargo has stepped up to help get this project underway."

The Yolo County Family Justice Center is a collaborative effort of several local non-profit agencies, law enforcement, and local government. The launch of the project has been actively supported by Supervisor Jim Provenza and DA Reisig, with the project operating under the umbrella of the Sheriff's Department and a volunteer Board of Directors representing all of the partners. FJC partners include law enforcement, prosecution, civil legal services, and community-based advocates. This collaboration is desperately needed so that victims of family violence can go to one location, rather than navigate, in a time of crisis, multiple stops for assistance. The model of co-location encourages follow through in the justice system and allows for more successful prosecution and better results for the victims and their families.

The Yolo County Family Justice Center is open now for pilot hours each Wednesday at the offices of the Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Center located at 175 Walnut Street in Woodland. Grant funds will support the ability to provide one place where victims can go to talk to an advocate, get counseling support, interview with a police officer, meet with a prosecutor, get a restraining order, or receive information on shelter and employment.

"We hope that this gift will benefit the sustainability of the Yolo County Family Justice Center for years to come," said Chevo Ramirez, Wells Fargo Northern California Foundation Manager.

The Yolo FJC has also recently received a \$5,000 grant from Sutter Hospitals and \$25,000 from Blue Shield. Grants are being sought to help with start-up expenses and the staffing of a part-time Executive Director. However, the operation of the FJC makes more efficient use of resources and personnel of existing agencies, and does not require additional funding from Yolo County.

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