

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 15, 2012 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney

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District Attorney Reisig Honors Volunteers

The Yolo County District Attorney's Office hosted a luncheon to honor its volunteers

(Woodland, CA) – March 15, 2012 – Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig hosted a luncheon today to honor his volunteers. District Attorney staff donated money to provide a spread of Mexican food, pizza and cake to show appreciation for the hard work and dedication of volunteer staff. Volunteers provide needed assistance to a staff that has been reduced by nearly 30 percent since the fiscal crisis hit a few year ago. Volunteers assist the attorneys, victim service's advocates, investigators and professional staff.

Many of the volunteers are law students or attorneys who recently passed the Bar Exam. The students work 10 to 15 hours per week while the attorneys volunteer full time and are assigned to the misdemeanor team. During the Summer, legal interns work full time. District Attorney Jeff Reisig started a formal Legal Internship Program shortly after taking office in 2007. His mission was to create a program where law students would have an enjoyable, rewarding and educational experience, and also provide invaluable legal support to his trial attorneys. Interns are involved in a wide variety of cases, both misdemeanor and felony. The summer program begins with a two-day training and orientation. A typical day for an intern involves drafting motions and memoranda of points and authorities, conducting research on complicated legal issues.

Some of the volunteers also assist the Professional Staff with their clerical duties. Others work with the investigators, victim advocates, and the Information Technology manager. Some of these volunteers have just finished high school while others are retired. One volunteer, Dorothy Pearson, is a retired police officer from the Davis and Sacramento Police Departments. She works with the High-Tech Forensics Unit.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated the volunteer program has been a huge success particularly at a time when the office is short staffed due to budgetary constraints. "Our volunteers have helped the District Attorney's Office a great deal during these difficult budget times. Our goal is to make sure that all of our volunteers have a rewarding experience while assisting us in keeping Yolo County safe. Our entire community benefits from our dedicated team of volunteers," said Reisig.