



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Staffing Changes in the Yolo County Public Defender's Office

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County Public Defender Barry Melton recently announced the appointment of two of his key staff members. Tracie Olson will now be serving as Chief Deputy Public Defender, and Allison Zuvela will serve as Assistant Chief Deputy.

“I have an extraordinary level of confidence in Tracie and Allison,” said Barry Melton, Yolo County Public Defender. “I know them both to be more than exceptionally gifted lawyers. They are exceptionally gifted leaders.”

Tracie Olson, who has been with the Public Defender's office since 1998, graduated, with honors, from the University of California, Davis in 1992, with a degree in managerial economics. After working for two years as a bank auditor, she entered the University of Minnesota Law School and graduated in the top ten percent of her class in 1997. Her internships were served at the University of Minnesota, Misdemeanor Criminal Defense Clinic, Hennepin County Public Defender's Office, and South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project. During her tenure with Yolo County, Ms. Olson has worked on a variety of cases involving misdemeanors, mentally disordered offenders, juvenile delinquency, felonies and capital murder. She is currently co-counsel with Allison Zuvela on a capital murder case.

“I look forward to this new chapter in my career with the Yolo County Public Defender's Office,” said Tracie Olson. “My hope is to be a continued support for my colleagues within the office as well as to serve my clients with the high quality representation they deserve.”

Allison Zuvela, who has been with the office since 2003, is a graduate of California Western School of Law, receiving her juris doctorate in 1994. She interned at the San Diego Public Defender's Office and continued on there as a law clerk working on death penalty cases until 1995. She served as a Deputy Public Defender in Tulare County for nine years, working on cases that included misdemeanors, juvenile delinquency, conservatorships and a capital murder case. In addition to her work as a public defender, Ms. Zuvela is a member of the Junior League, and a mentor with Volunteers in Parole.

“As Assistant Chief Deputy Public Defender, I look forward to this opportunity to serve our clients as well as the community,” said Allison Zuvela.

The annual salary range for Chief Deputy Public Defender is \$119,868 – \$145,692. The annual salary range for Assistant Chief Deputy Public Defender is \$113,832 – \$138,360.

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