



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Sharon Jensen
County Administrator

Beth Gabor
Public Information Officer

625 Court Street, Room 202 ▪ Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8150 ▪ FAX (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

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Contact: Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer
(530) 666-8042 [w] ▪ (530) 219-8464 [c]

Yolo County Hires Ombudsman

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County Administrator Sharon Jensen recently announced the appointment of Harrison Jack as the county’s first ombudsman. The ombudsman position was created by the Board of Supervisors earlier this year to provide employees a neutral party to whom they can talk with regarding issues and concerns they may feel uncomfortable taking directly to their supervisor or other available county staff.

“The appointment of Harrison Jack signals our Board’s sincere desire to create a “safe place” for employees who have concerns that they may feel can not be addressed through other channels,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mariko Yamada. “We are especially pleased to have Mr. Jack available to our employees with his extensive background in analyzing workplace strengths, weakness and opportunities.”

Mr. Jack has been an adjunct professor with Golden Gate University for the past 15 years teaching strategic planning, executive and operations management, and critical reasoning. Recently retired from a distinguished career in the military that included leadership roles at national and international levels, Mr. Jack also served in Vietnam and Germany. Throughout his professional career, Mr. Jack has planned, implemented and conducted multiple conferences and training seminars and facilitated visioning and teambuilding sessions at international, national, state and local levels. He has assisted more than 100 communities and organizations in SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of their work environment and in transitioning from personality-based to process-based principles of management. Mr. Jack holds a Bachelors of Science in engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, a Masters in public administration, a Masters in personnel management, and a Ph.D. in clinical hypnotherapy.

Born and reared in Woodland, Mr. Jack recently established the Hmong Emergency Relief Organization (HERO), a non-profit organization committed to support of the Hmong community here and abroad, and serves as president of Youth Development Academies of America, a non-profit dedicated to building a one-year residential youth development center for 500 out-of-school youths, ages 16-20, to provide education, leadership, and life skills essential for self-sufficiency.

“I am pleased to be working back home in Woodland again and I embrace this opportunity to facilitate open communication and a healthy work environment throughout the Yolo County organization,” said Harrison Jack. “I look forward to helping empower all employees to directly participate in, and support, the strategic vision of the county in a way that supports their individual talents as well as high-performance team efforts.”

Yolo County is the first in the state to provide this benefit to its employees. The county will soon begin a promotional campaign with employees so they have an awareness of the role of the ombudsman and how to access his services. Mr. Jack is contracted at \$90 an hour on an hourly, as-needed basis.

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