



COUNTY OF YOLO

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National Public Defense Week 2018, March 18-24

(Woodland, CA) – Sunday, March 18, marks the 55th anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, and the third nationwide celebration of Public Defense week. The Yolo County Public Defender’s Office is joining forces with national, state and county public defense offices and other indigent defense organizations to celebrate and commemorate this historic event.

Fifty-five years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the landmark case of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which established the right to counsel for people too poor to afford to hire a lawyer. National Public Defense week is celebrated to highlight the important, dedicated, excellent and diligent work that everyone in the indigent defense community conducts every day on behalf of their clients. Whether public defenders, private defense attorneys, paralegals, investigators, legal processors, secretaries, social workers or private advocates, all are warriors against social injustice, abuse of power, inequities and inequality. All work hard and advocate for people in order to restore and affirm their human dignity and values, and to vindicate their legal and human rights.

“Our mission is to provide quality legal representation through zealous advocacy that protects the liberty and constitutional rights of our clients, and ensures a fair system of justice,” said Yolo County Public Defender Tracie Olson. “I want to thank every member of the office, staff and volunteer alike, because their work truly makes a difference in the lives of our clients.”

During National Public Defense week (and always), the Yolo County Public Defender’s Office encourages residents to:

Join in with them to spread the word of the importance of equal and social justice.

Uphold and embrace the principles behind the Constitution.

Stop and reflect on the importance of indigent defense work and share stories on how dedicated staff tipped the scales of justice to make this world a better place.

Tell a story that humanizes someone and illustrates how those represented are not the stereotype often depicted.

Impart to someone that his or her life really matters.

Convey to a public defender or staff member that they are doing a great job.

Express to friends, family, colleagues, clients and the world why and how the work of public defenders matters.

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