



COUNTY OF YOLO

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New Public Defender Appointed

(Woodland, CA) – This week, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors announced their intent to appoint Tracie Olson as the county’s new Public Defender. Ms. Olson will replace Public Defender Barry Melton upon his retirement. Ms. Olson has held a position with the Yolo County’s Public Defender’s Office since 1998, most recently serving as Chief Deputy Public Defender.

“When you look in the dictionary under ‘ultimate public defender’ you find Barry Melton,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mike McGowan. “Fortunately, he has served us well by mentoring his successor. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I look forward to working with Tracie Olson and with her office.”

Ms. Olson graduated with honors from the University of California, Davis with a Bachelors of Science in managerial economics. She earned her juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School and was inducted into the Order of the Coif, an honorary society reserved for those who graduate in the top ten percent of their class. Her internships were served at the University of Minnesota, Misdemeanor Criminal Defense Clinic, Hennepin County Public Defender’s Office in Minneapolis, and South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) in Harlingen, Texas.

“Tracie is a fine lawyer, a talented administrator, a deeply compassionate human being and a true public servant,” said Barry Melton, Yolo County Public Defender. “I am confident that Yolo County will be well served by its new Public Defender.”

“I appreciate the confidence Barry Melton and the Board of Supervisors have shown in me,” said Tracie Olson. “I indeed had a tremendous mentor in Barry Melton.”

Ms. Olson will assume her new duties upon the retirement of Barry Melton.

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