

Resolution No. 2018-

RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HONORING LESLI M. CALDWELL, PUBLIC DEFENDER, UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER WITH 38 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN TWO CALIFORNIA COUNTIES, INCLUDING 12 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO SOLANO COUNTY

WHEREAS, Lesli M. Caldwell began her 38-year career in public service in 1980 as a Deputy Public Defender with the Contra Costa Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, over twenty-seven years with the Contra Costa Public Defender, Ms. Caldwell represented every type of case coming into the office, from misdemeanors to capital murder, developing a specialization in gang cases and in mental health issues, and was actively involved in mentoring and training less experienced attorneys; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Ms. Caldwell retired from the Contra Costa Public Defender and joined the Solano County Public Defender as Chief Deputy, and in 2010 she was appointed by the Board to lead the department as the Solano County Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Caldwell has focused on hiring passionate and committed attorneys who share her dedication for advocating for the rights of the poor who find themselves confronted with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, through her leadership, the quality of litigation has improved, resulting in better outcomes for the clients of the office; including a 66% positive outcome of all felony jury trials and 73% of all misdemeanor jury trials for 2016, and a 78% positive outcome of all felony jury trials and 84% of all misdemeanor jury trials for 2017; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Caldwell has added ancillary services to provide resources to help clients obtain rehabilitative services, through our Social Workers, and clear up their arrest and conviction record, with our Paralegals; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Caldwell has also overseen the transition to a new case management system, which has increased productivity through its connection to the courts' data, with the capability of sharing with other criminal justice partners, and through the elimination of paper files; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Caldwell has been a Board Member with California Attorneys for Criminal Justice and with Legal Services for Northern California; the National Legal Aid and Defender Association Liaison to the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Standards Committee, and on the Committee on Indigent Defense for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; and has continued to be active with training new and experienced attorneys statewide; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Caldwell, through her tenacious advocacy and commitment to guarding the rights of all by defending the Constitution, has earned the admiration and respect of those who have had the privilege of working with her over the course of her 38 years in public service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Solano County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes Lesli M. Caldwell for her 38 years of dedicated public service and wishes her success in her future endeavors and a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

Dated this 11th day of December, 2018

JOHN M. VASQUEZ, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Jeanette Neiger, Chief Deputy Clerk