

Justice Hugo Black wrote: "Governments, both state and federal, quite properly spend vast sums of money to establish machinery to try defendants accused of crime. Lawyers to prosecute are everywhere deemed essential to protect the public's interest in an orderly society. Similarly, there are few defendants charged with crime, few indeed, who fail to hire the best lawyers they can afford to prepare and present their defenses. That government hires lawyers to prosecute and defendants who have the money hire lawyers to defend are the strongest indications of the widespread belief that *lawyers in criminal courts are necessities, not luxuries.*"

Gideon's case was remanded for a new trial, this time with a court-appointed attorney. The jury found Gideon not guilty. It was shown that the government's chief witness was an accomplice to the actual culprit.

To deny someone the opportunity to have an advocate to walk him through the criminal justice system and to help him exercise his constitutional rights because he can't afford an attorney is a grave injustice that *Gideon v. Wainright* remedied.

The attorneys employed by the Office of the Solano County Public Defender, consistent with attorneys in public defender offices across this nation, continue every day to carry out the holding of *Gideon* ensuring that regardless of economic status all persons who face deprivation of constitutional and substantial rights are treated equally, fairly and with dignity in all court proceedings.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No financial impact is associated with this item.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board of Supervisors could choose not to receive this presentation on the 50th Anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision; *Gideon v. Wainright*. This alternative is not recommended.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The County Administrator's Office concurs with Department's request.

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION