



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION HONORING SOMA BALDWIN UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

WHEREAS, Soma Baldwin was a leading voice to establish the Santa Maria Public Law Library in 1964, originally a collection of codes and casebooks in Judge Marion Smith's jury room. A broom closet was then acquired to house the book supplements. She was first appointed to the Law Library Board of Trustees in 1970, serving in the "attorney-at-large" position on the Board. She obtained funding to open the branch three hours a day and through continued advocacy staffed public hours were expanded to six hours a day. Eventually the County granted the branch library proper space and hours were expanded to eight hours per day; and

WHEREAS, Soma supported legislative advocacy that resulted in increased library funding from civil filing fees. While legislation was pending, she obtained private funding from local attorneys and bar associations to keep the library open and operational in the interim. She advocated for adequate staffing in both branches as well as the continued collection expansion and increased computer access in the Santa Maria Public Law Library. She became known as a stalwart in attendance at Law Library Trustee meetings, rarely missing a meeting while managing a busy private law practice which expanded as she took over the practice of Mr. Richard Clare; and

WHEREAS, Soma saw the Santa Maria Public Law Library and the Santa Maria Court system evolve from a single judge sitting one day a week, to ten judges in modern court facilities. During her unprecedented 45 year tenure on the Santa Barbara County Law Library Committee, Soma Baldwin has conscientiously attended hundreds of monthly Board meetings at which she was a consistent steadfast supporter of maintaining law library services for all with a particular emphasis on the Santa Maria Branch Law Library.; and

WHEREAS, during her 45 years of service as the liaison between the Northern Santa Barbara County Bar Association and the Santa Barbara Law Library Committee, on several occasions it was the single handed persistence and efforts of Soma Baldwin that meant the difference between keeping the North County - Santa Maria Branch Law Library open and operational and having it closed.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors honors and thanks Soma Baldwin for her many years of service to the Santa Barbara County Law Library.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 12th day of May, 2015 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST _____
Clerk of Board

Supervisor - 1st District

Supervisor - 2nd District

Supervisor - 3rd District

Supervisor - 4th District

Supervisor - 5th District