



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR ERICA BOTTORFF, PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, MARCH 2024

CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, Erica Bottorff exemplifies the County's organizational values of Accountability, Customer Focus, Equity & Inclusion, Innovation, Trust, and Ethics; and

WHEREAS, Erica Bottorff models the transformative behaviors of Collaborative Problem Solving, Alignment with the County's Vision, Risk Taking, Data-Driven Decision Making, and Strategic Thinking; and

WHEREAS, Erica is a forensic social worker, who holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern California and certifications in MSW field instruction, and began her career with the Public Defender's office as a Holistic Defense Advocate in 2018. She was instrumental in beginning and growing the office's Community Defender Division, and is a vigorous and tireless advocate for our clients. Erica has also contributed to policy and research initiatives, including the Santa Barbara Holistic Defense Pilot; and

WHEREAS, Erica takes great pride in the work she does for the residents of Santa Barbara County and specializes in building strong relationships with clients who have struggled to engage in the past. She works with clients, ensnared in the criminal legal system throughout the life of their cases, to improve their legal and life outcomes. She supports diverse populations, including immigrants, refugees, isolated populations of people experiencing homelessness, trafficking victims, individuals undergoing competency proceedings in need of crisis services, people living with substance use disorders, and survivors of trauma. She quickly assesses clients and provides crisis intervention to those with mental health, substance use, and housing challenges. Upon identifying needs, she plans and executes individualized interventions with community partners and provides supportive counseling throughout the duration of legal case as well as coordination with service providers.

WHEREAS, Erica collaborates with attorneys, advocates, social service workers, and treatment coordinators to achieve identified client goals. Erica constantly improves processes, efficiency, productivity, and goes above and beyond for each client using her wealth of knowledge and experience regarding the legal system. As an advocate, Erica strives to achieve social justice and decarceration through innovative community solutions. In Erica's spare time, she loves to spend time snowboarding and enjoying her cat, Eggplant.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors recognizes Erica Bottorff as the employee of the month for March 2024.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 19th day of March 2024 by the unanimous vote of the members present.



ATTEST: Monique
Clerk of the Board

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Supervisor - 1st District
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Supervisor - 2nd District
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Supervisor - 3rd District
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Supervisor - 4th District
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Supervisor - 5th District