

County of Santa Barbara

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR THE YOUTH DEFENDER TEAM, PUBLIC DEFENDER'S EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH, FEBRUARY 2026

WHEREAS, Sara Elturk, Phillip Ung, Iliana De Hoyos, and Martha Sanchez Galvan, the Santa Barbara County Public Defender, Youth Defender Team, exemplifies the County's organizational values of Accountability, Customer Focus, Equity & Inclusion, Innovation, Trust, and Ethics; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Defender Team 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, the Youth Defender Team has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the County's mission and the Public Defender's Office's values by providing zealous, compassionate, and high-quality representation to youth and families, centering dignity, fairness, and rehabilitation in their advocacy. They have shown leadership and adaptability by proactively engaging with justice system stakeholders, translating evolving law into meaningful local practices that advance equity, reduce unnecessary system involvement, and improve outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Defender Team has distinguished itself through rigorous and innovative litigation, holding the prosecution to its burden through timely, strategic motion practice and trial readiness, resulting in a significant number of acquittals at trial and/or dismissals on or near trial, reflecting both legal excellence and disciplined preparation; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Defender Team exemplifies collaboration and mutual trust, working cohesively across roles to mentor one another, communicating effectively, integrating legal advocacy with holistic support, and fostering a culture of shared responsibility and continuous learning. Through commitment, professionalism, and teamwork, they have made a measurable and positive impact on the juvenile system, earning recognition as a model of public service whose efforts embody the highest standards of integrity, advocacy, and service to the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara does hereby acknowledge The Youth Defender Team-Sara Elturk, Phillip Ung, Iliana De Hoyos, and Martha Sanchez Galvan-as Employees of the Month for February 2026

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 3rd day of February 2026 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



Mona Nigam
ATTEST: Clerk of the Board

[Signature]
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



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FUTURE