

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 03-41

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING COMMEMORATION OF
Gideon v. Wainwright (1963) 372 U.S. 335**

WHEREAS, on March 18, 1963, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, in which a poor Florida prison inmate, Clarence Earl Gideon, caused perhaps the single biggest change in the history of the U.S. criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the *Gideon* decision guaranteed assistance of counsel to all persons facing imprisonment even if they could not afford to hire an attorney; and

WHEREAS, the *Gideon* decision provided the impetus for the development of statewide programs throughout the United States offering legal counsel to indigent defendants in felony cases, and later to misdemeanor, juvenile and conservatorship cases; and

WHEREAS, Public Defender and indigent defender offices have become an increasingly important component of the justice system, reflecting society's concern that all individuals receive proper counsel to protect their rights under law; and

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Public Defender's Office and the private attorneys contracted by Yolo County to provide indigent defense services have been providing excellent and competent counsel for persons unable to afford counsel and deserve to be honored, together with a commemoration of the *Gideon* decision on this important day in American justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors hereby commemorates the 40th Anniversary of the landmark United States Supreme Court case of *Gideon v. Wainwright* on this day, March 18, 2003 and commends the role of the hardworking attorneys and staff of the Yolo County Public Defender's Office, and the private attorneys contracted by Yolo County to provide indigent defense services, for their commitment and diligence in keeping our system fair and providing excellent representation to those who cannot afford to hire counsel.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of March 2003, by the following vote:

AYES: McGowan, Thomson, Siefertman, Jr., Rosenberg, Pollock.


Lynnel Pollock, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

