



## MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

# NEWS RELEASE

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA  
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### COUNTY OF MENDOCINO ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF LINDA THOMPSON AS NEW PUBLIC DEFENDER

On June 16 the Board of Supervisors appointed Ms. Linda Thompson as the Public Defender, upon the retirement of Mr. Wes Hamilton. The Chief Executive Office of Mendocino County announced today that Linda Thompson started August 23, 2009, as the County's new Public Defender. "As Linda has served the Public Defender's office for the last 11 years, Mendocino County is fortunate to have someone of her experience to step into the role of Public Defender," stated Chair John Pinches.

Linda Thompson brings over 24 years of law experience to her new position. Her education includes: University of San Francisco School of Law; Arizona State University, where she graduated Cum Laude; and continuing education seminars to stay current in her field.

The Public Defender's office consists of 21 positions of which she now has the responsibility to manage. Linda has directly supervised the work of the twelve Deputy Public Defender positions, both in court and at the office. During her tenure, she has handled no fewer than eight homicides and has also had to handle the felony and misdemeanor calendars in both the Willits and Fort Bragg courts for one year at a time when the office was severely understaffed. Presently, Linda maintains a caseload which consists of the more serious felony and mental health matters in the office.

As Assistant Public Defender since 2003 and five years previously as Chief Trial Deputy, she has provided leadership and teamwork to the office, and is well respected in the community. In these tough financial times, Linda will be a great asset to the Public Defender's office, as both an administrator and available attorney, according to Tom Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Mitchell".

Tom Mitchell  
Chief Executive Officer