RESOLUTION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARIN COUNTY

PROCLAIMING

PUBLIC DEFENDERS’ DAY

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GIDEON V. WAINWRIGHT

A CELEBRATION OF THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL

MAY 17, 2013

WHEREAS, in 1789, the 6th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified and embodied in the Bill of Rights to guarantee those accused of a crime the right to a speedy and public trial before an unbiased jury; to be notified of their charges; to confront witnesses against them; and to have the assistance of counsel; and

WHEREAS, it was Clarence Earl Gideon’s handwritten letter to the United States Supreme Court on March 18, 1963, that enabled persons of indigent status, who are accusation of a crime, to receive legal representation even when they could not afford counsel; and

WHEREAS, when at his retrial Mr. Gideon was appointed a public defender and was ultimately acquitted of his crime; and

WHEREAS, for nearly one hundred years, California has had the unique privilege of being the first state to establish and publicly fund a Public Defender’s Office; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Mr. Harold J. Truett and Mr. Jerome Durham established the Marin County Public Defender’s Office; and

WHEREAS, in the subsequent forty-four years, the Marin County Public Defender’s Office has become a well-respected indigent defense office that provides valuable legal service to those charged with crimes and those facing restraint on their liberty; and

WHEREAS, the Marin County Public Defender’s Office has become a significant community legal resource that collaborates with other community stakeholders to provide therapeutic and restorative justice opportunities for its clients and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Marin County Public Defender’s Office has promoted legal and civic education through its highly acclaimed internship programs for high school, college, and law school students; and

WHEREAS, members and alumni of the Marin County Public Defender’s Office are engaged community members who are working with school and community leaders to better conditions for youth and others in need.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Marin County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims May 17, 2013, as “Public Defenders’ Day” in Marin County in acknowledgement of the fifty years since the landmark decision of Gideon v. Wainwright and the forty-four years since the establishment of the Marin County Public Defender’s Office, and the work of the public lawyers who continue to fulfill the constitutional promise of the 6th Amendment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 14th day of May 2013.

JUDY ARNOLD – DISTRICT 5, PRESIDENT

COUNTY OF MARIN