



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: September 1, 2020

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Recognizing Bruce Goldstein For His More Than Twenty-three Years Of Dedicated Service To
The County Of Sonoma**

Whereas, Bruce Goldstein will be retiring from his position as County Counsel for the County of Sonoma on September 7, 2020, after more than 23 years of service with the County Counsel's Office; and

Whereas, Bruce has provided unequivocal guidance while facing historic, unprecedented challenges during the leadership of the current Board of Supervisors as well as Supervisors McGuire, Carrillo, Kerns, Reilly, Smith, Brown and Cale; and

Whereas, Bruce has successfully negotiated many important milestones including: the biggest plaintiff case in County history (\$186 million settlement with PG&E for the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires); successfully defending the County from the largest claim ever against it (SCARE Case) (negotiated an agreement that provided important benefits for retirees while reducing \$30 million in County OPEB liability); successfully pursuing affirmative litigation that furthers the Board's policy goals; and increasing litigation capacity and expertise to successfully handle most cases in-house; and

Whereas, under the leadership of Bruce Goldstein, the office of County Counsel took a leading role in negotiating agreements with County tribes which has generated more than \$70 million in mitigation payments and, more importantly, developed constructive government to government relationships with County tribes based upon mutual respect and partnership; and

Whereas, there is not a significant project that the County undertakes where County Counsel attorneys are not involved with significant added value. The Sonoma County Counsel's Office work was recognized in two CSAC) Service Awards. While it is unusual for these awards to go to legal offices, Bruce was honored for helping guide CSAC federal tribal fee-to-trust advocacy, and later, for leadership in insuring that

utilities remained subject to inverse condemnation liability for wildfire destruction they caused;
and

Whereas, with the Board’s leadership, Bruce’s Office was instrumental in forming the Unaccompanied Child Immigration Defense Project, for undocumented children arrested at the border. This unique government agency project, in which County Counsel staff and attorneys represented these minors, was replicated in other jurisdictions and was recognized by National Association of Counties (NACo) and CSAC innovation awards; and

Whereas, after federal immigration policies became even more oppressive—striking fear deep into our community, Bruce spearheaded efforts to build on the success of the Unaccompanied Child Immigration Defense Project. With the Board’s organizational and financial leadership, Bruce helped the County eventually create The Secure Families Collaborative. This coalition of legal service agencies has now provided deportation defense and affirmative immigration relief to over 175 Sonoma County families; and

Whereas, as a Deputy County Counsel Bruce spent 8 years representing child protective services working alongside the County’s child welfare social workers; and

Whereas, Bruce has had a lasting and memorable impact on the Board, his colleagues both in the office of Sonoma County Counsel and throughout the County organization, and the community.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, with an official retirement date in early September, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma wishes to express sincere thanks and gratitude to Bruce for his years of service to our community, and congratulates him on his retirement from the office of Sonoma County Counsel.

Supervisors:

Rabbitt: Zane: Gore: Hopkins: Gorin:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.