



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: December 3, 2024

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

Honoring and Commending Ronit Rubinoff for Twenty Years of Exemplary Public Service with Legal Aid of Sonoma County

Whereas, Ronit Rubinoff, a leader and champion for social equity and equal justice in Sonoma County, whose empathy for others is vast and only matched by her drive to ensure everyone has equal access to justice, has transitioned from Executive Director to Director Emerita of Legal Aid of Sonoma County (LASC) after 20 years of public service; and

Whereas, Ronit graduated from McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific in 1992 with her Juris Doctor. She worked for the Oregon Public Defender's office in Portland, Legal Aid of Napa County and helped establish the Napa Superior Court self-help center; and

Whereas, Ronit joined LASC as Executive Director in 2004 growing the small four-person center with no attorneys and a budget of less than \$400,000 into the powerhouse organization of advocacy and a voice for the under-served; and

Whereas, Ronit created programs to serve vulnerable and under-represented populations - including Veterans, elders, children, workers, those in need of health care, immigrants, as well as the medically fragile - including the Child Abuse Prevention Program, Housing Stability Program, Homeless Prevention program, SAFE-Domestic Violence Services Project, Elder Law Program, Medical Legal Partnership Program, Employment and Health Program, Disaster Relief Program, Veteran Services Program, and an Economic Equity project assisting small BIPOC businesses; and

Whereas, in 2017, Ronit started a disaster law program to provide education and outreach to fire victims following the historic Tubbs Fire. The program leveraged over \$8 million dollars for survivors, set new legal precedents and policies in disaster recovery, and is now a nationally recognized program; and

Whereas, LASC has become a leader in cultivating and mentoring new and potential attorneys through their intern program, with many remaining in Sonoma County. LASC's intern program contributes to diversity and inclusion in the profession, as recruiting and mentoring BIPOC students is an important component of the program; and

Whereas, Ronit has received numerous well-deserved accolades over the years including recognition by Congressman Mike Thompson as Woman of the Year for Sonoma County in 2017, the Amicus Curiae award by the Court in 2019 and Sonoma County Bar's 2023 Career of Distinction Award - the highest honor the Bar can bestow on its members; and

Whereas, Ronit was on the forefront of the partnerships that became the Family Justice Center, a beacon of hope for many in our community. During the pandemic, she quickly developed safe ways of continuing to provide services and created programs to help people affected by COVID deal with housing, domestic violence, and employment issues exacerbated by the pandemic; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors does hereby honor and commend Ronit Rubinoff on Twenty Years of Exemplary Public Service to Legal Aid of Sonoma County.

Be It Further Resolved that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors sincerely thanks her for her commitment to public service and upholding the public trust and wishes her well in her next endeavors.

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Date:

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Supervisors:

Gorin:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.