



Health and Human Services Agency

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PUBLIC DEFENDER

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ryan Gruver, Health and Human Services Director

SUBJECT: Resolution appointing Jennifer Mouzis as the Public Defender of Nevada County, effective June 29, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Resolution appointing Jennifer Mouzis as the Public Defender, effective June 29, 2026.

FUNDING: Funding for the Public Defender position is included in current fiscal year as well as the 2026/27 proposed budget within the Public Defender's Office budget unit. There is no additional impact to the General Fund beyond the approved budget allocation.

BACKGROUND:

The County conducted a robust recruitment process for the Public Defender, including retention of an executive search services firm. Following completion of the recruitment and selection process, Jennifer Mouzis was identified as the preferred candidate based on qualifications, leadership experience, and demonstrated expertise in indigent criminal defense, administration, and public sector legal services.

Licensed by the California State Bar, Ms. Mouzis currently serves as an Assistant Public Defender for Sacramento County, and previous to that she maintained a private criminal defense practice for many years. She obtained her Juris Doctor at University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, and her bachelor's degree at University of California at Davis.

The Public Defender is responsible for providing constitutionally mandated legal representation to indigent individuals charged with criminal offenses and related matters, and for overseeing all operations of the Public Defender's Office, including budget administration, personnel management, compliance, and coordination with the courts and justice system partners.

Pursuant to Government Code section 27703, the appointment of Public Defender must be made

by the Board of Supervisors.

Approval of the recommended action will ensure continuity of leadership within the Public Defender's Office and maintain the County's ability to fulfill its constitutional and statutory obligations for indigent defense services. The proposed appointment will become effective on June 29, 2026 with compensation and employment terms consistent with the County's salary resolution and management compensation plan.

Approved by: Ryan Gruver, Director, Health and Human Services