

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Katharine L. Elliott

The County of Nevada Board of Supervisors takes great pleasure in recognizing Katharine “Kit” Elliott and her years of exemplary public service as Nevada County Counsel.

Kit began her service to Nevada County in 2019, joining us from Mendocino County. From the outset, she guided the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive Office, County departments, and commissions through complex civil, administrative, and operational matters with clarity, confidence, and an unwavering commitment to public service. Her arrival coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a moment that demanded calm judgment, rapid action, and extraordinary endurance. Kit led the overhaul of essential County policies, advised on emergency response, and undertook the ambitious effort to update and reorganize significant sections of the Nevada County Code to improve clarity, usability, and public accessibility.

Kit’s leadership has been instrumental in many of Nevada County’s most challenging matters, including the ongoing litigation involving Rise Gold Corp. and the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Kit brought significant statewide experience from her time as Mendocino County Counsel. Following the devastating 2017 fires, she and Sonoma County Counsel initiated litigation against PG&E and coordinated a coalition of twelve counties, including Nevada County, to support wildfire victims and drive accountability. In addition, she spearheaded Mendocino County’s participation in the multi-district opioid litigation and continued that work on behalf of Nevada County, helping secure more than \$5.6 million to date to support treatment and recovery services for individuals suffering from opioid addiction in Nevada County.

Before serving as County Counsel in Mendocino and Nevada Counties, Kit dedicated nearly three decades to criminal defense work as both a public defender and a private defense attorney, during which she conducted nearly 100 jury trials and served on two statewide criminal defense boards. Her background shaped a practice grounded in compassion, determination, and a clear sense of justice. That same combination of technical expertise and humanity defined her work in Nevada County, where she became known for her fierce, feisty, and fearless approach to the law. She dove headfirst into the County’s most complex problems, solved them with determination and good humor, and set a tone of urgency and ownership.

Kit also brought a notable openness and accessibility to her work. She was known for taking calls and meeting with members of the public and anyone who reached out to her, regardless of whether the issue was urgent, routine, or entirely unexpected. She treated each person with respect and genuine attention, embodying Nevada County’s commitment to transparency and service. Her leadership extended beyond the County. Kit served as President of the County Counsels’ Association of California, representing all 58 counties and strengthening statewide collaboration. Within her own department, she fostered a culture of teamwork, accountability, and thoughtful problem solving, mentoring her attorneys and building a cohesive, service-oriented team.

Reflecting on her career, Kit often speaks of the community and camaraderie she found in each office she served. Nevada County has benefited greatly from her intelligence, her humor, and her unmistakable ability to move things forward.

Therefore, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors takes great pleasure in celebrating Kit Elliott and her extraordinary contributions as Nevada County Counsel, and extends its deepest appreciation for her leadership, service, and enduring impact on this County and its residents.

Heidi Hall, Chair

Robb Tucker, District II

Lisa Swarthout, District III

Susan K. Hoek, District IV

Hardy Bullock, District V