



**RICHARD ELÍAS**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
COUNTY SUPERVISOR - DISTRICT 5

## PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS


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# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 24, 2020

**TO:** Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

**FROM:** Richard Elías, Chairman and District Five Supervisor 

**REGARDING:** Item for the March 17, 2020 agenda

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Please add the following to the March 17, 2020 agenda:

### Proclamation

Proclaiming Wednesday, March 18, 2020, to be "Public Defense Day" to recognize the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling in Gideon v. Wainwright, ordering that defendants without means must be provided professional legal representation. This year also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year that Pima County has had a Public Defender's Office providing low-income defendants with qualified attorneys.

Thank you

RECEIVED  
FEB 24 2020  
CLERK OF THE BOARD  
JULIE CASTAÑEDA

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 1963, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Gideon v. Wainwright that citizens charged with a crime who cannot afford an attorney should have one appointed for them; and

**WHEREAS**, in this ruling, Justice Hugo Black wrote that the “noble ideal” of the criminal justice system “cannot be realized if the poor man charged with a crime has to face his accusers without a lawyer to assist him;” and

**WHEREAS**, this March 18 marks the 57th anniversary of that ruling, and 50 years ago Pima County established the Public Defender’s Office to uphold the “noble ideal” of which Justice Black wrote, providing those without financial means with quality legal representation; and

**WHEREAS**, a Mexican-American Legal Association in 1969 began lobbying the Pima County Board of Supervisors to hire a Public Defender and staff for his or her office, and in February 1970, it complied, hiring Howard Cashman as the county’s first Public Defender; and

**WHEREAS**, Pima County Public Defense Services’ attorneys and their support staff members continue to work tirelessly to provide essential legal services to those who would otherwise not have access to them; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Defense Services not only represents its clients, but it also upholds the rights set forth in the U.S. Constitution of every accused person to have a fair trial or obtain a just result from the legal process.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims Wednesday, March 18, 2020, to be:

## “PUBLIC DEFENSE DAY”

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 17th day of March 2020.

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The Honorable Richard Elías, Chairman  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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Julie Castañeda, Clerk  
Pima County Board of Supervisors