BY THE PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PROCLAMATION
PUBLIC DEFENSE WEEK
MARCH 17 THROUGH MARCH 21, 2025

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, 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, recognizing that, as the Constitution itself implies, justice must always be balanced; and

WHEREAS, in this ruling, Justice Hugo Black wrote that "Even the intelligent and educated layman has small and sometimes no skill in the science of law. If charged with crime, his is incapable, generally, of determining for himself whether the indictment is good or bad" and without the aid of counsel, "though he be not guilty, he faces the danger of conviction because he does not know how to establish his innocence;" and

WHEREAS, Pinal County continues to uphold that Constitutional right set forth in Gideon v Wainwright through the continued growth and support of Public Defense Services; and

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

WHEREAS, it is fitting to recognize and celebrate the dedication and commitment of public defenders, appointed counsel, and all those who work tirelessly to uphold the right to counsel and ensure access to justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pinal County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims Monday, March 17th through Friday, March 21st to be **"Public Defense Week."**

Stephen Q. Miller, Chairman, District 3

Jeffrey McClure, Vice-Chairman, District 4

Rich Vitiello, District 1

ATTEST:

Mike Goodman, District 2

Natasha Kennedy, Clerk of the Board

Jeff Serdy, District 5