

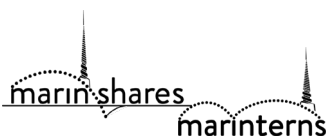
## VOLUNTEER NOTES

### We Remember

**Nick Yanchunis**, who interned at the heart of the county's volunteer and intern program in the Human Resources Department, died in April of cancer.

He learned to volunteer as a youngster, accompanying his mom summer after summer when she volunteered for the Marin County Fair. Later, as a Sonoma State grad student, Nick applied for a county writing internship and served three years, writing and editing copy for this newsletter. He also supported volunteer-intern recognition events held at the Civic Center Café and ceremonies held in Board of Supervisors chambers. Always modest, Nick found satisfaction helping behind the scenes. He was honored by the Board with a resolution of commendation for outstanding efforts.

Internships Coordinator **Joy Fossett** and Coordinator of Volunteers **Anne Starr**, who worked with him, fondly recall Nick's quick wit and loyal service, and extend deep sympathy to his family.



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## Internships Advocate Leaves Legacy

By Pedro Oliveros

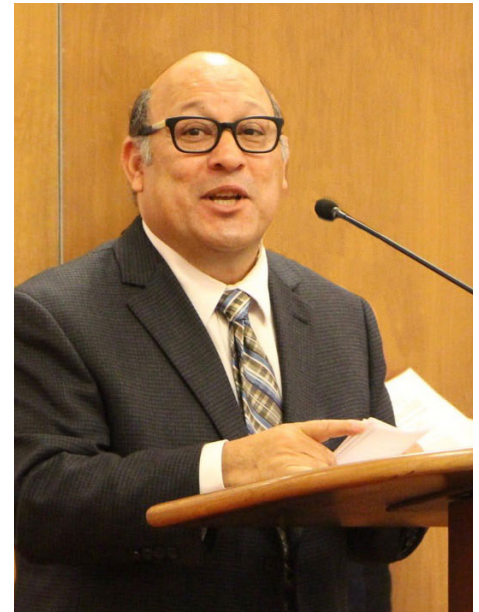
**Jose Varela**, who led the Marin County Public Defender's successful internship program, retired as chief public defender in March. He arrived in Marin County as an assistant public defender in 2001. We saw immediate changes when he arrived.

Jose was relentless in changing the office's community involvement. He focused on client-centered representation and our office's mission statement: To provide effective and innovative legal services and protect the rights of our clients while treating them with respect and encouraging them to lead productive lives.

Jose was a teacher before he studied law, instructing at several schools and coaching several sports. After finishing law school at UC Berkeley, he became an adjunct professor of law at the University of San Diego Law School and the Thomas Jefferson School of Law. He then started the internship program at the Alternate Public Defender Office in San Diego. They soon had a thriving program that allowed students to represent clients in motions and expungements. This set the foundation for his Marin County programs.

Jose created and led the office's high school internship program. He spent many hours teaching about the law, working in an office, and achieving integrity. Many of his students have gone on to successful careers.

The Marin County Office of Education's School-to-Career program was the basis for the critical thinking program he sought. Internships in professional offices were often available only for



Jose Varela

advanced students, but Jose wanted this opportunity for all students interested in the law.

Former intern **Krishna Menon** remembers "getting to watch real court cases as they proceeded and being able to work with the chief public defender himself, Mr. Jose Varela, on understanding and deconstructing some of the complex legal concepts and vocabulary that we had seen in the courtroom." Krishna most enjoyed "the fact that Mr. Varela focused on our ability to reach our own conclusions based on the facts, rather than just giving us the answers."

"Mr. Varela is an amazing mentor who placed value in giving back and mentoring students," said **Aoife Mellett**, another former intern. "Mr. Varela had a major impact on my life and set a great example of the type of person I would like to grow into."

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## Internships Advocate Leaves Legacy

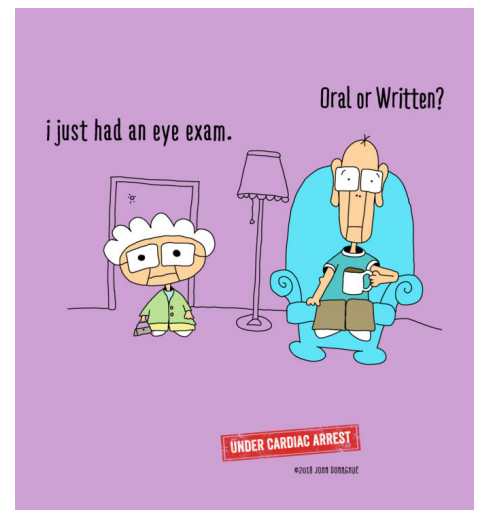
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Jose is a former president of the California Public Defender's Association. He was a speaker and teacher at statewide conferences. Even though he forged many relationships with politicians, judges, and attorneys, he took great pleasure in having lunch with his staff and students.

Marin County is losing a stalwart leader and he will be sorely missed. His principles and practices live on in the continuing Public Defender internship

program, which offers students of all ages and backgrounds opportunities to explore the law and learn about the importance of defending the civil rights of all.

*Writer and Deputy Public Defender **Pedro Oliveros** has served as an attorney in the Marin County Public Defender's Office for 33 years and is a long-time supporter of the department's interns and volunteers. He was Marin County's 2015-2016 Outstanding Staff Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year.*



## Happy Anniversary

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their ongoing involvement.

### 28 YEARS

**Hali Mundy** (Fairfax), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks (Parks)

### 24 YEARS

**Richard Fay** (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

### 23 YEARS

**Eric Cutler** (Tomas), Volunteer Tomas Firefighter, Marin County Fire

### 22 YEARS

**Noel Ryan** (Novato), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

### 20 YEARS

**Alice Wallace** (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

### 17 YEARS

**Wallis Smith** (Novato), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Marin County Free Library

### 16 YEARS

**Janice Hitchcock** (Novato), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

### 12 YEARS

**Pat Williams** (Corte Madera), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

### 11 YEARS

**Hans Adler** (Mill Valley), **Michele Boudinot** (Penngrove), **Diane Cokely** (San Anselmo), **Oak Dowling** (San Rafael), **Kathleen Forte** (Tiburon), **Irwin Gubman** (Mill Valley), **Roberta Robinson** (San Anselmo), **Paul Roye** (Greenbrae), **Sylvia Roye** (Greenbrae), Financial Abuse Specialist Team Volunteers, HHS

### 10 YEARS

**Carl Nolte** (San Francisco), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

### 8 YEARS

**Linda Blackwood** (Forest Knolls), **Martin Grant** (Greenbrae), **Kathleen Kopp** (Santa Rosa), **James Okumura** (Point Reyes Station), **Bob Stein** (San Anselmo), **Michael Warner** (Petaluma), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

### 7 YEARS

**Scott Mathewson** (Novato), Steward, Parks

### 5 YEARS

**Jim Freed** (Sebastopol), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

**Rory Hewitt** (San Francisco), **Steve Johnson** (Pacifica), **Steve O'Keefe** (Novato), **Peter Van der Nailen** (Oakland), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

**Audrey Van Hoven** (Novato), Spanish Tutor, Novato Library

### 4 YEARS

**Eliza Warde** (Forest Knolls), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

### 2 YEARS

**Ken Adams** (Woodacre), **Owen Clapp** (Woodacre), **Anna Dirkse** (San Geronimo), **John Gazzoli** (San Anselmo), **Allison Pollack** (San Anselmo), **David Puglisi** (Lagunitas), **Amy Valens** (Forest Knolls), **Tom Valens** (Forest Knolls), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

**Michael Carrol** (Sausalito), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Marin County Free Library

**David Moshal** (Mill Valley), Digital Literacy Aide, Marin City Library

## Who's New & Welcome!

**Samantha Gatton** (Pacifica), Post-Bar Law Clerk, District Attorney's Office

**Chris Gould** (San Rafael), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**Chia Hamilton** (Oakland), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**Danielle Jackson** (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Robert Jansen** (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

**Miranda Kolbe** (San Rafael), Volunteer Attorney, Public Defender's Office

**Sylvia Krzanowska** (Corte Madera), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

**Tyler Phelps** (Oakland), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**James Saltzgeber** (Fairfax), Radio Communications Team Volunteer, Department of Public Works

**Sarah Taft** (Mill Valley), Tobacco Prevention & Education Intern, HHS

# Annual Report Reflects Impacts

By Xitlalli Lechuga

Although the Covid-19 shutdown greatly limited volunteer and intern activity during part of fiscal year 2019–2020, some participation was up. On the plus side, there were 33% more paid students and 17% more student hours than the previous year. Specifically, 92 paid interns worked 22,188 hours, according to the recently released MarinShares & Marinterns [Annual Impact Report](#).

Overall, however, MarinShares and Marinterns had fewer volunteers and unpaid interns because so many had to pause their participation during the shutdown. Still, across the county organization a total of 8,042 volunteers and unpaid interns served 200,527 service hours from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This included many whose roles changed from in person to remote.

Among the county's 22 departments, Marin County Parks led in overall participation. The Parks team's staff volunteer coordinators, **Greg Reza** and **Kirk Shroeder**, supported opportunities for 3,700-plus volunteers and interns

who gave more than 26,000 total hours on county parklands and open space preserves.

Impact numbers reflect efforts to help stem the spread of Covid-19. Starting in March 2020, the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) welcomed residents with medical backgrounds to assist with the pandemic response. HHS Volunteer Coordinator **Tara Clark** supported existing and new participants. Volunteers and interns helped with Covid testing and contact tracing across Marin. By the close of the fiscal year, HHS had counted 10,176 hours for 561 volunteers, 36,168 hours for 184 unpaid interns, and 705 hours for 6 paid interns.

Within HHS, the largest impact came from the Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC), with 482 volunteers contributing over 4,300 hours through June 30, 2020. MMRC members answered questions at the Covid-19 call center, conducted contact investigations, collected specimens at county testing sites, and led first aid and disaster preparedness



workshops for hundreds of residents. They also responded to the October 2020 Public Safety Power Shutoff and Sonoma County wildfires by assisting at a non-emergency call center and providing clinical care at a shelter. MMRC Volunteer Coordinator **Anne Carta** supported hundreds of new volunteers who joined the corps during the pandemic. (MMRC's further pandemic contributions will be noted in the next impact report covering 2020–2021.)

MarinShares volunteers **Deborah Gregor** and **Eleanor Lau** supported report production; Deborah made follow-up phone calls to confirm participants' service hours and Eleanor provided graphic design.

Numbers on about each department's volunteers and interns are available in the [report](#), which is posted on the county website.

The format is accessible to readers living with disabilities, thanks to support from county Digital Accessibility Program Manager **Suzanne Levine**.

Summary highlights for the year, including names of individual and team honorees, are on the back page.

## Former Interns Meet in Court



*The internship cycle continues as one former Marin County Public Defender's Office intern swears in another former Marin PD intern. Both served as students with retiring Chief Public Defender Jose Varela (see story, page 1). Pictured at left is Johnny Mendoza, being sworn in as a new attorney qualified to practice in the State of California. The Honorable Jesus Rodriguez presides at a courtroom in Chico. Judge Rodriguez serves in Butte County and is that county's first Latino judge. Johnny now works as a deputy public defender with the Los Angeles Public Defender's Office.*