

# PROBATION NEWS



## CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2021

### WOMEN OF PROBATION HONORED THROUGHOUT MARCH

The Los Angeles County Probation Department joined the nation in celebrating Women's History Month 2021 by launching a virtual campaign titled "Women of Probation." The month-long campaign spanning across all the Department's social media platforms celebrated women's contributions to the organization, history, culture, and society. Women of Probation, past and present, who held various service years, were acknowledged and celebrated for the entire month. It was an empowering campaign.

Currently, 54% of the Department's staff are female. "Women of Probation" serve tirelessly, remaining steadfast and dedicated to being conduits of change in the communities of Los Angeles County. The campaign showcased numerous women, both retired and those currently serving in various positions that cross all areas of the organization. Every area holds a significant influence on the positive and impactful work that the Department does.

#### Inside this issue:

A look at the Department's  
Child Trafficking Unit

Spotlight On:  
DPO II Heidi Derby



Can you name them all?  
Find out Who's Who on last page!

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2021

## WOMEN OF PROBATION (CONT)

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Throughout the years, several prominent women have made a profound impact within the Department. The following are a few that have left an influential mark during their Probation careers.



Ms. **Lula Hurte-Mouton** served with the Los Angeles County Probation Department for 32 years. She began her career in 1960 as a Probation Counselor at Las Palmas School for Girls, currently known as Dorothy Kirby Center. A few years later, she transitioned to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. She was promoted to several positions, including Deputy Probation Officer I and II, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, and Probation Director I. After working several years in juvenile hall, she transferred to Firestone Area Office, where she again promoted and became a Probation Director II. Ms. Hurte-Mouton retired in 1992, having served as a Deputy Director Probation for the last ten years of her career.

She was well known for her spirit of mentorship. Ms. Hurte-Mouton had the gift of identifying strengths within her staff. She recognized that it was her responsibility to groom the next generation of leaders. Staying mindful of this, Ms. Hurte-Mouton intentionally trained staff to lead in excellence. As a result, she was blessed to witness numerous employees be promoted and grow within the Department.

"My main goal was to nurture staff and help them to promote within the organization. I have always had a heart for helping people. Probation was a great career. I felt good when I retired, knowing what I had accomplished with staff and Department procedures. I was able to help someone every day of my career, and I cannot remember one day that I did not want to go to work. For this, I am truly grateful," Ms. Hurte-Mouton shared.

Ms. **Trula Worthy-Clayton's** career with the Los Angeles County Probation Department spanned 34 years, with notable achievements in Adult Field Services and as the Superintendent of Sylmar Juvenile Hall. She is memorable for her servant leadership management style. Ms. Worthy-Clayton truly believes that staff development stands at the core of all impactful programs.



She declares, "Any success obtained during my professional career I credit to the many dedicated staff I was privileged to work with. My chief responsibility was ensuring the work environment enhanced individual performance while supporting teamwork. I could not have successfully performed my job without first supporting and preparing my staff to do theirs."

Ms. Worthy-Clayton's first assignment, Deputy Probation Officer at Las Palmas School for Girls, began her tenure in a wide variety of departmental areas. She spent her last 24 years of service in a series of management positions, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Probation Director I, II, and III.

Ms. Worthy-Clayton retired in 1997 as a Senior Probation Director. Her post-retirement assignments include temporary administrative projects with the Department of Children and Family Services and Probation.



# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2021

## WOMEN OF PROBATION (CONT)

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Ms. **Jane Martin** served with the Los Angeles County Probation Department for 40 years. She started her tenure with the Department in 1963 as a Deputy Probation Officer II and excelled through the ranks. She served in all five bureaus throughout her career and retired in 2003 as Bureau Chief, Adult Special Services.

She had a special affection for the Central Placement Office and the child-care community. She also enjoyed working closely with other County and State departments, especially regarding children's issues.



In addition to her official Department duties, Ms. Martin was known for her ability to motivate and uplift women within the organization. You could often find her working diligently with "Women Empowered", an organization designed to inspire and empower women to excel and work at their full potential within the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

"It was a privilege to go to work each day, knowing I would be surrounded by friends and committed colleagues. We worked together, shared our thoughts, and were creative, always trying to find ways to improve programs for both youth and adult clients. I am so very proud of our officers, supervisors, clerical staff, and administrators. I was blessed to have such a wonderful career and to be part of our Probation family."

Ms. **Donna Rose** served with the Los Angeles County Probation Department for 34 years. She began her career in 1973 as a Probation Trainee. Rising within the Department's ranks, she held the following positions: Deputy Probation Officer I, Deputy Probation Officer II, and Supervising Deputy Probation Officer. She retired from the Department in 2007 in the role of Probation Director.

The Probation Department played an influential role in Ms. Rose's life. She expressed, "I would not trade the training and what I learned from the Probation Department for anything. What I learned from the Department allowed me to realize in life I can do anything."



Ms. **Virginia L. Snapp** served with the Los Angeles County Probation Department for 38 years. In 1971, she began her career with the Department as a Probation Trainee. She rose through the Department's ranks, holding numerous positions. Ms. Snapp was a strong and hard worker, dedicated and committed to her job as she worked tirelessly for many nights. Upon her retirement in 2009, Ms. Snapp held the prestigious title of Deputy Director, Probation. Ms. Snapp departed this life in 2016 and will always be remembered for her intelligence, wisdom, and hard work ethic.

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2021

## WOMEN OF PROBATION (CONT)

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Ms. **Terri L. McDonald** was sworn in in 2017 as the first female Chief Probation Officer of the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Under her leadership, Campus Kilpatrick reopened to serve Probation youth by implementing the "L.A. Model" for juveniles in rehabilitative service facilities.

"This is a time of transition within the Probation Department, and we sought a candidate who could protect public safety and reduce recidivism and demonstrates a commitment to the rehabilitation of juveniles and adults," explained Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis.

Chief McDonald served with the Department for three years, retiring in 2020.



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Ms. **Felicia C. Cotton** currently holds the position of Deputy Director Probation (UC) for the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Committed to a life of service, she has worked diligently with the Department for 34 years. With her feet still to the ground, she continues to be an inspiration to many. Ms. Cotton started her career in 1987 as a Probation Trainee. Over the years, she was promoted through the ranks holding several positions such as Deputy Probation Officer I, Field Deputy Probation Officer II Field, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Probation Director I, Probation Director, Senior Probation Director, and Bureau Chief Probation.

"Ms. Cotton is a Los Angeles native, understanding the serious challenges our youth face each day. They combat dangerous gang life, gun violence, unemployment, and the sinking feeling of hopelessness. Ms. Cotton is a true servant leader who cares for her team and ensures each one of her team members understands the calling of the Department's mission to serve our community with love and care.

Her demand for perfection is unwavering, but at the end of the day, I know I am following a true wartime leader who is beyond capable of leading us during hardship. Ms. Felicia Cotton brings out the best in every person she encounters, whether that is a team member or community member, and Los Angeles is a better place every day due to her watchful eye," states Director Vincent Yung.

Ms. Cotton remains committed to her vow to serve and positively impact Los Angeles County. Her career continues to motivate the entire Probation Department and is a true testament that women can excel in the workplace while being change agents in the community. She inspires everyone to press forward, remain committed to their calling, and stay dedicated to living a fruitful life, all while

being empowered to step up and take their place in leadership. Standing on all the aforementioned women's shoulders and foundation, Ms. Cotton continues to carry the torch, lead by example, and stay committed to making Los Angeles County Probation Department the premier law enforcement agency in the County.



Lula Hurte-Mouton, Trula Worthy-Clayton, Jane Martin, Donna Rose, Virginia Snapp, Terri McDonald, and Felicia C. Cotton are trailblazers. They have a rich legacy within the Los Angeles County Probation family. It is honorable when colleagues speak well of you and your contributions to the workplace 30 plus years after retirement. These ladies are true testaments of hard work, mentorship, selflessness, and caring about staff and community. During Women's History Month 2021, the Los Angeles County Probation Department recognizes, honors, and extends sincere gratitude to them for their heartfelt service. Their contributions are endless and unforgettable. They will forever remain embroidered within the fabric of Los Angeles County.

Probation News