**County News Center:**[**Probation Supervisor Receives Employee of the Year Statewide Award**](https://www.countynewscenter.com/probation-supervisor-receives-employee-of-the-year-statewide-award/)

**Yvette Urrea Moe**

**December 13, 2024**

A San Diego County Probation Youth Development and Community Support Services special projects supervisor has received the California Probation Employee of the Year.

The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), an association of all 58 counties, awarded Yvonne Salgado at its annual awards ceremony earlier this month. Salgado first received the Southern Region Employee of the Year award along with four other Region Employees of the Year. Then she was selected among the five region award recipients.

“A true leader, Yvonne encourages excellence from her staff, fosters a culture of learning, and is dedicated to advancing the core values of our Probation Department,” said Chief Probation Officer for San Diego County Tamika Nelson. “Her positivity, genuine enjoyment of her work, and willingness to support her colleagues make her a beacon of inspiration in the field of probation work and enhance the health and safety for everyone in our community.”

Nelson said Salgado’s exceptional leadership, dedication and innovative approach to community collaboration and youth development has had a transformative impact on County Probation and the broader California Probation profession. She had made significant contributions on numerous critical projects and initiatives.

Recognizing a need to note in the Probation case management system if the child was affected by the Child Welfare Act (ICWA), she led an effort to develop a ICWA Node in the Probation system. She did this by implementing ICWA policy and procedures in collaboration with Tribal Star for planning and working with County staff to assist with the technological set up.

She worked with community partners to create the Community Resource Directory, a comprehensive system facilitating referrals to community programs. Then, Salgado spearheaded a virtual resource fair where community partners showcased their unique programs and answered participant questions. Now, she has expanded the directory to include ICWA partners.

“Officer Salgado exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated and forward-thinking leader,” said Tulare County Probation Chief Kelly Vernon, president of the CPOC. “Her tireless efforts and collaborative approach continue to uplift not only San Diego County but also serve as a model for probation across California.”

**San Benito.com:**[**Award honors legacy of San Benito County probation Chief Frontella**](https://sanbenito.com/award-honors-legacy-of-san-benito-county-probation-chief-frontella/)

**December 13, 2024**

The Chief Probation Officers of California recently introduced the Joseph Frontella Award for Distinguished Service in Institutions, an honor recognizing “exceptional contributions to juvenile institutions across the state,” says a press release from the Chief Probation Officers of California.

The award celebrates the legacy of former San Benito County Probation Chief Joseph “Joe” Frontella, whose lifelong commitment to the service of others profoundly impacted the local community and the probation profession throughout California, says the press release.

The inaugural Joseph Frontella Award will be presented to Kilee Willson, Juvenile Hall Division Director for Sonoma County Probation, at this year’s awards ceremony.

Frontella, who retired in 2023 after 28 years of dedicated service to the field of probation, passed away on Feb 29, 2024, following a bicycle accident, says the press release. Known for his unwavering compassion and dedication to youth and community, Frontella’s loss was deeply felt by all who knew him.

“The Joseph Frontella Award is a tribute to an extraordinary leader whose values continue to inspire California’s probation professionals,” said Chief Kelly Vernon, President of CPOC and Tulare County Chief Probation Officer. “Chief Frontella exemplified compassion, mentorship and innovative leadership. Through this award, we honor his memory and ensure his contributions are never forgotten.”

Frontella’s career was defined by his quiet strength, resilience and an unrelenting drive to create opportunities for justice-involved youth, says the press release. As Chief Probation Officer, he worked to guide young people toward positive pathways while mentoring colleagues and fostering a culture of integrity and fairness. His deep commitment to justice, community  and collaboration left an enduring mark on the probation field.

“Chief Frontella’s impact on San Benito County and our probation department cannot be overstated,” said Chief Ashlyn Canez, Chief Probation Officer of San Benito County. “His visionary leadership set the foundation for countless transformative programs that continue to serve our youth and families today.

“Chief Frontella believed in the power of compassion and collaboration, and his legacy lives on in the hearts of those he mentored and the lives he helped change. The Joseph Frontella Award is a fitting tribute to his extraordinary contributions and a reminder of the standards he set for all of us in this field.”

The new annual award is bestowed upon a probation department staff member working in a juvenile institution who embodies Frontella’s qualities, according to the press release, including leadership; compassion and empathy; dedication to justice; innovation and mentorship.

The award presentation to Willson will take place during the annual ceremony hosted by CPOC, where probation professionals gather to celebrate the achievements of their peers and honor the memory of a man whose life exemplified service, justice and hope, says the press release.

**Mammoth Times:**[**Mono County Probation Department employee receives statewide recognition**](https://www.mammothtimes.com/news/mono-county-probation-department-employee-receives-statewide-recognition/article_ba2a5c62-b835-11ef-aa8b-67fb5a84fccd.html)

**December 12, 2024**

**MONO COUNTY –** Darcie Perkins, Behavioral Health Services Coordinator III for MonoCounty, was recognized at the 2024 annual Chief Probation Officers of California Awards Ceremony as the organization’s Central Region Employee of the Year.

"Darcie exemplifies the dedication and leadership that drives our department forward," said Karin Humiston, Mono County’s Chief Probation Officer. "Her exceptional ability to connect clients with vital services, foster collaboration between agencies, and provide hands-on support reflects her deep commitment to improving lives and helping enhance safety in our communities.”

As the primary liaison for mental health services, Perkins coordinates psychiatric and psychological assessments, substance abuse programs, and individual and residential treatment services. Her leadership role in the Reentry Committee — a multi-disciplinary team that meets weekly to plan stable living and resource connections for probationers exiting custody or treatment — is instrumental in fostering successful transitions for both adult and juvenile clients, according to the department.

"In a rural community with limited resources, Darcie excels at building bridges between agency partners, such as behavioral health, corrections, education, and adult services, to promote meaningful communication and collaboration," the CPOC noted in a press release announcing the award. "Her commitment to service extends beyond her professional duties as she actively participates in youth-focused community events."

Additionally, on June 3, Perkins and another probation employee saved a woman trapped in a burning vehicle, the press release said.

Perkins and Probation Officer Leianna Eissinger observed flames under a vehicle traveling north on U.S. 395. The driver was unaware of the flames under her car, and they were able to alert her to pull over, at which time the driver realized she had lost her brakes. She was able to safely coast into a turn out.

Perkins and Eissinger helped to remove the driver from the vehicle, ensured the safety of other occupants, and maintained a secure perimeter as the vehicle exploded multiple times. For their actions, they were awarded the Medal of Valor by the Mono County Probation Department.

“Darcie Perkins embodies the spirit of service, courage, and compassion,” said Kelly Vernon, CPOC President and Tulare County Probation Chief. “Her tireless commitment to connecting people with critical resources and her extraordinary bravery during a life-threatening situation reflect the very best of what probation professionals strive to achieve.”

The Chief Probation Officers of California is made up of probation employees from all 58 counties in the state. CPOC's goal is to adopt a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change. CPOC aims to prevent crime and delinquency, reduce recidivism, restore victims, and promote healthy families and communities.

For more information about CPOC, please go to [www.cpoc.org](http://www.cpoc.org).

**Corning Observer:**[**Statewide award presented to TC probation officer**](https://www.appeal-democrat.com/corning_observer/statewide-award-presented-to-tc-probation-officer/article_11a9e0ec-b80a-11ef-92e1-d7e5549384fd.html)

**Tri-County News**

**December 11, 2024**

Tehama County Probation Officer Oscar Morales, who is a dual member of the Probation Business Managers Association (PBMA) and Probation Information Technology Managers Association (PITMA), was honored at the 2024 Annual Chief Probation Officers of California Awards Ceremony with the Affiliate Employee of the Year Award.

The recognition celebrates Morales’ outstanding initiative, technical expertise, and dedication to advancing the mission of the probation profession, reports Chief Probation Officers of California.

“Oscar’s willingness to take initiative and go above and beyond to enhance our work in probation is exemplary,” said Tehama County Chief Officer Pamela Gonzalez, Chief Probation Officer of Tehama County. “His expertise and dedication are invaluable to Tehama County Probation and help make our community safer for everyone.”

Morales helped lead initiatives to modernize the affiliate organizations and embraced the challenges with enthusiasm and skill. Creating backend systems and enhancing technology for probation work, he contributes fundamentally to the work of probation to create safer communities and help connect offenders to transformative rehabilitation services, she added.

“Oscar’s initiative, creativity, and passion have made a profound impact on PBMA, PITMA and probation throughout California” said Kelly Vernon, CPOC president and Tulare County probation chief. “His ability to tackle challenges head-on and deliver outstanding results exemplifies the leadership and commitment we celebrate with this award.”

CPOC commends individuals like Morales, whose contributions enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of probation operations statewide.

The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) is an association of all 58 counties with a shared identity as law enforcement leaders and states it is committed to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change.

**Sonoma County:**[**Sonoma County judge, director of Juvenile Hall receive statewide awards from Chief Probation Officers of California**](https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/sonoma-county-judge-director-of-juvenile-hall-receive-statewide-awards-from-chief-probation-officers-of-california)

**December 10, 2024**

The presiding judge of Sonoma County Superior Court and the director of Sonoma County’s Juvenile Hall were recently honored by a statewide group of probation officers for their efforts to improve the local justice system.

Sonoma County Superior Court Presiding Judge Shelly J. Averill was recognized as Judicial Officer of the Year by the Chief Probation Officers of California at its annual awards ceremony. Kilee Willson, director of Sonoma County’s Juvenile Hall, received the group’s Joseph Frontella Award, which recognizes individuals who exemplify leadership, compassion and dedication in juvenile justice.

Judge Averill was honored for leadership and innovation that significantly impacted community corrections and the justice system.

“Judge Averill exemplifies the highest standards of judicial excellence, guiding the Sonoma County Superior Court through challenges with strength, compassion and innovation,” said Vanessa Fuchs, Sonoma County’s chief probation officer. “Her dedication is a true gift to Sonoma County and our justice system.”

Under her leadership, Judge Averill secured a $1.27 million grant to establish a Mental Health Diversion Court, collaborated with probation staff to ensure its success, and fostered inclusivity within the Sonoma County Probation Department by instituting formal oath-of-office ceremonies.

“Judge Averill’s extraordinary dedication to equity, innovation and community partnerships has transformed Sonoma County’s justice system,” said Kelly Vernon, president of the Chief Probation Officers of California.

Willson’s career is marked by her commitment to improving outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system and their families. She has reimagined juvenile housing to foster rehabilitation, expanded programming through community partnerships, and maintained the highest standards of care within facilities.

“The Joseph Frontella Award celebrates individuals whose service embodies the principles of integrity, fairness and innovation that Chief Frontella brought to his work in probation,” Fuchs said. “Kilee’s dedication to the youth in our care and her transformative leadership in juvenile justice make us incredibly proud.”

Wilson’s statewide leadership as president of the California Association of Probation Institutions Administration and her compassionate approach during crises further underscore her dedication.

“Kilee Willson’s exceptional contributions reflect the very essence of this award, setting the standard for excellence and compassion in juvenile justice,” said Vernon, who also serves as Tulare County Probation Chief.

The Chief Probation Officers of California promotes public safety through research-based approaches to crime prevention, rehabilitation and community corrections. Its leadership drives policy and practice to foster safer communities and healthier families.

**The Appeal-Democrat:**[**Yuba Probation Manager honored by statewide group**](https://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/yuba-probation-manager-honored-by-statewide-group/article_8ace3aa8-b77f-11ef-8faf-e307a83d70da.html)

**December 10, 2024**

Lisa Cunningham, a manager with the Yuba County Probation Department, was honored at the 2024 Annual Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) Awards Ceremony with the affiliate employee of the year award.

Lisa was recognized for her dedication, adaptability and leadership as the Yuba County Probation’s business systems analyst, contributing to the success of the Probation IT Managers Association (PITMA) and Yuba County Probation.

“Lisa is an incredible member of our team,” said Matt Ricardy, Chief Probation Officer for Yuba County. “Her dedication, ability to adapt and solve challenges, and attention to detail make her an invaluable asset to our department. She consistently goes above and beyond, ensuring the success of our programs and the well-being of our department. She is well deserving of this statewide recognition for her work.”

Lisa’s exceptional organizational skills and servant leadership approach have been pivotal in keeping the PITMA Board on task and ensuring its members stay informed. Over the past year, she has excelled in managing board meetings, deadlines, and communications, bringing innovation and efficiency to every challenge. Her thoughtful and engaging communication style has fostered participation and collaboration among PITMA members and greatly enhanced the Yuba County Probation Department.

“Lisa’s adaptability, innovation and servant leadership have left an indelible mark on PITMA and the Yuba County Probation Department,” said Kelly Vernon, President of CPOC and Tulare County Chief Probation Officer. “Her commitment to excellence and her leadership style have enhanced the probation profession and helped create lasting impact in Yuba County and throughout California.”

CPOC honors individuals like Lisa Cunningham, whose hard work benefits probation operations statewide.

The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) is an association of all 58 counties with a shared identity as law enforcement leaders. CPOC is committed to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change. Their leadership guides policy and practice in prevention, community-based corrections, secure detention for youth, and direct human services. CPOC aims to prevent crime and delinquency, reduce recidivism, restore victims, and promote healthy families and communities.

**Nevada County:**[**Nevada County Probation Department Employee Receives Statewide Recognition**](https://nevadacountyca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=7977)

**December 10, 2024**

Nevada County Deputy Probation Officer Karyn Mueller was recognized at the 2024 Annual Chief Probation Officers of California Awards Ceremony as the Sacramento Region Employee of the Year, honoring her tireless dedication to improving opportunities for youth and her innovative approach to community service in Nevada County.

“Karyn has become the go-to leader for juvenile services in our community, managing and spearheading transformative initiatives for youth,” said Jeff Goldman, chief probation officer for Nevada County. “Her commitment to expanding opportunities for at-risk youth makes her an invaluable member of our community and department.”

A passionate advocate for youth development, Officer Mueller leveraged her extensive experience and social capital to establish Beyond the Barriers California, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping transitional-aged youth (18-25), with a focus on former foster youth, access to reliable transportation. Recognizing the significant barrier that lack of transportation presents in rural areas, Officer Mueller mobilized a network of youth-focused community members to serve on her nonprofit’s board, partnered with local repair shops, and collaborated with the high school advanced auto shop.

Beyond the Barriers California goes the extra mile to ensure the donated vehicles are both functional and sustainable for the recipients. This holistic approach ensures youth are set up for success as they transition toward independence, accessing education and employment opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach.

In addition to her nonprofit work, Mueller has been a pivotal figure in launching the county’s Youth Commission and serves as a trusted resource for local schools. Her reputation as an innovative leader and dedicated advocate has made her a sought-after expert in juvenile services and placement planning.

“Karyn’s unwavering commitment to addressing the challenges faced by our youth is truly extraordinary,” said Kelly Vernon, chief probation officer of Tulare County and president of Chief Probation Officers of California “Her ability to identify barriers, inspire collaboration, and implement practical, sustainable solutions sets her apart as a leader and role model throughout the state.”

The Chief Probation Officers of California is an association of all 58 counties with a shared identity as law enforcement leaders. CPOC is committed to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change. Their leadership guides policy and practice in prevention, community-based corrections, secure detention for youth, and direct human services. CPOC aims to prevent crime and delinquency, reduce recidivism, restore victims, and promote healthy families and communities.

Learn more about the Chief Probation Officers of California at [www.cpoc.org](http://www.cpoc.org).

**KTLA:** [**Southern California juvenile justice leader honored with statewide recognition**](https://ktla.com/news/local-news/southern-california-juvenile-justice-leader-honored-with-statewide-recognition/)

**Will Conybeare**

**December 4, 2024**

The principal of a San Bernardino school for students in juvenile detention has been honored with an esteemed award for her services.

Monica Hatcher, the principal of the Central Valley Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center and A.R.I.S.E. Secure Youth Treatment Facility, was presented with the Tim Fitzharris Award, which honors a non-probation professional who has made an extraordinary contribution to corrections, recognizing their impact on individuals, communities and systems of care.

Hatcher, whose career in the justice system spans over two decades, showed “dedication to improving the lives of at-risk youth” through transformative programs, according to Chief Probation Officers of California.

“Monica’s leadership and dedication to providing quality education, her constant efforts to enhance technology access and implement innovative learning experiences have left an enduring mark on youth and their families,” said San Bernardino County Chief Probation Officer Tracy Reece. “She is a true gift for San Bernardino County and especially to the youth in our justice system who are working to get their lives turned around.”

Among the programs Hatcher has instituted include Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, STEAM labs with 3D printing and therapeutic experiences within detention facilities – including petting zoos.

“She has also prioritized academic achievement for detained youth, implementing graduation ceremonies for those in custody and proudly celebrating the success of nearly 300 graduates,” CPOC said.

CPOC President and Tulare County Probation Chief Kelly Vernon commended Hatcher for her “ability to create meaningful opportunities for growth and rehabilitation” and said her actions are “very inspiring.”

The Chief Probation Officers of California is an association of all 58 counties with a shared identity as law enforcement leaders and who commit to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change.

More information about CPOC can be found [here](https://www.cpoc.org/).

**KRCR:**[**Del Norte County probation officer named North Region Employee of the Year**](https://www.krcrtv.com/news/local/del-norte-county-probation-officer-named-north-region-employee-of-the-year)

**Adam Robinson**

**December 4, 2024**

DEL NORTE COUNTY, Calif. — Emily Johnson, a Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, has been named the North Region Employee of the Year at the 2024 Annual Chief Probation Officers of California Awards Ceremony.

Johnson was celebrated for her significant impact on her team and her unwavering dedication to helping young people overcome challenges and build brighter futures, officials with the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) said.

“Emily’s exceptional work ethic and ability to rise above challenges is inspirational,” said Lonnie Reyman, Chief Probation Officer for Del Norte County, who nominated Johnson for the award. “She sets a standard for leadership and dedication, balancing the demands of her position with a deep sense of compassion for the youth she serves and the betterment of our community.”

Since taking on her supervisory role in May 2020, CPOC said Johnson has shown a steadfast commitment to the youth and community of Del Norte County. In 2022 and into 2023, she faced immense challenges when her unit was short-staffed, managing all juvenile probation services alone. Despite the daunting workload, Johnson handled all reports, case management, child and family team meetings and court proceedings for about 50 youths, including eight in out-of-county placements.

“Emily Johnson is the embodiment of dedication and resilience,” said Kelly Vernon, Chief Probation Officer of Tulare County and President of CPOC. “Her perseverance and leadership during difficult times reflect her profound commitment to her community and the honorable profession of probation. She is an invaluable asset to probation throughout California and an inspiration to us all.”

Congrats, Johnson!!

**The Union:**[**Nevada County Probation employee recognized for establishing automobile donation program**](https://www.theunion.com/news/nevada-county-probation-employee-recognized-for-establishing-automobile-donation-program/article_a774aad4-b29d-11ef-b7cf-f368e71183db.html)

**December 5, 2024**

Nevada County Probation Department Officer Karyn Mueller was recognized at the 2024 Annual Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) Awards Ceremony as the Sacramento Region Employee of the Year, honoring her tireless dedication to improving opportunities for youth and her innovative approach to community service in Nevada County.

“Karyn has become the go-to leader for juvenile services in our community, managing and spearheading transformative initiatives for youth,” said Jeff Goldman Chief Probation Officer for Nevada County. “Her commitment to expanding opportunities for at-risk youth makes her an invaluable member of our community and department.”

A passionate advocate for youth development, Officer Mueller leveraged her extensive experience and social capital to establish Beyond the Barriers California, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping transitional-aged youth (18-25), with a focus on former foster youth, access to reliable transportation. Recognizing the significant barrier that lack of transportation presents in rural areas, Officer Mueller mobilized a network of youth-focused community members to serve on her nonprofit’s board, partnered with local repair shops, and collaborated with the high school advanced auto shop.

Beyond the Barriers California goes the extra mile to ensure the donated vehicles are both functional and sustainable for the recipients. This holistic approach ensures youth are set up for success as they transition toward independence, accessing education and employment opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach.

In addition to her nonprofit work, Mueller has been a pivotal figure in launching the county’s Youth Commission and serves as a trusted resource for local schools. Her reputation as an innovative leader and dedicated advocate has made her a sought-after expert in juvenile services and placement planning.

“Karyn’s unwavering commitment to addressing the challenges faced by our youth is truly extraordinary,” said Kelly Vernon, Chief Probation Officer of Tulare County and President of CPOC. “Her ability to identify barriers, inspire collaboration, and implement practical, sustainable solutions sets her apart as a leader and role model throughout the state.”

The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) is an association of all 58 counties with a shared identity as law enforcement leaders. CPOC is committed to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change. Their leadership guides policy and practice in prevention, community-based corrections, secure detention for youth, and direct human services. CPOC aims to prevent crime and delinquency, reduce recidivism, restore victims, and promote healthy families and communities.

**Contra Costa News: [Malkia Crowder Honored with Affiliate Employee of the Year Award](https://contracosta.news/2024/12/06/malkia-crowder-honored-with-affiliate-employee-of-the-year-award/%22%20%5Co%20%22https%3A//contracosta.news/2024/12/06/malkia-crowder-honored-with-affiliate-employee-of-the-year-award/)**

**December 6, 2024**

Contra Costa, Calif. – Training Coordinator for the California Association of Probation Institutions Administrators (CAPIA) and dedicated leader within the Contra Costa County Probation Department Malkia Crowder, has been recognized at the 2024 Annual Chief Probation Officers of California Awards Ceremony with the Affiliate Employee of the Year Award.

This prestigious award celebrates Malkia’s exceptional contributions to advancing professional development and fostering a diverse and inclusive community within probation services.

“Malkia’s leadership in our department and in the statewide association of CAPIA has been nothing short of exceptional,” said Esa Ehmen-Krause, Chief Probation Officer for Contra Costa County. “Her ability to inspire, educate, and empower others has greatly enhanced the skills and confidence of those she trains, and her commitment to investing in our justice-involved youth is unmatched.  We are incredibly fortunate to have Malkia in our department and she is well deserving of this statewide recognition.”

Malkia has served on the CAPIA Executive Board for the past five years as the Training Coordinator, bringing impactful training sessions to each conference and elevating the professional development opportunities available to CAPIA members. Her tireless efforts and innovative approach to training have made a lasting impact on the probation field.

Malkia’s leadership and expertise extend beyond CAPIA. With a career that began in January 1999 with the Contra Costa County Probation Department, she has become a sought-after voice on issues such as diversity and inclusion in the workforce. She has led workshops at national conferences, and her thought-provoking article, “Implicit Bias: What is It and Does it Affect Us?”, was featured in American Probation and Parole Perspectives Magazine, further demonstrating her commitment to education and reform.

“Malkia’s dedication, insight, and leadership have not only strengthened CAPIA but also enriched the broader probation profession,” said Kelly Vernon, CPOC President and Tulare County Probation Chief. “Her work exemplifies the values of collaboration, inclusivity, and professional growth that probation professionals strive to uphold.”

CPOC is proud to recognize individuals like Malkia Crowder, who lead with vision and passion to advance the mission of probation work in juvenile institutions.

The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) is an association of all 58 counties with a shared identity as law enforcement leaders. CPOC is committed to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change. Their leadership guides policy and practice in prevention, community-based corrections, secure detention for youth, and direct human services. CPOC aims to prevent crime and delinquency, reduce recidivism, restore victims, and promote healthy families and communities.

**Red Bluff Daily News:**[**Tehama County’s Oscar Morales recognized with statewide award**](https://www.redbluffdailynews.com/2024/12/07/tehama-countys-oscar-morales-recognized-with-statewide-award/?clearUserState=true)

**George Johnston**

**December 7, 2024**

RED BLUFF – Dual member of the Probation Business Managers Association and Probation Information Technology Managers Association  Oscar Morales has been honored at the 2024 Annual Chief Probation Officers of California Awards Ceremony with the Affiliate Employee of the Year Award.

This recognition celebrates Morales’ outstanding initiative, technical expertise, and dedication to advancing the mission of the probation profession.

“Oscar’s willingness to take initiative and go above and beyond to enhance our work in probation is exemplary,” Tehama County Chief Probation Officer Pamela Gonzalez said. “His expertise and dedication are invaluable to Tehama County Probation and help make our community safer for everyone.”

According to the Chief Probation Officers of California, Oscar helped lead initiatives to modernize the affiliate organizations and enthusiastically and skillfully embraced the challenges. This organization claims that by creating backend systems and enhancing technology for probation work, Morales contributes fundamentally to the work of probation to create safer communities and help connect offenders to transformative rehabilitation services.

“Oscar’s initiative, creativity, and passion have made a profound impact on PBMA, PITMA and probation throughout California” CPOC President and Tulare County Probation Chief Kelly Vernon said. “His ability to tackle challenges head-on and deliver outstanding results exemplifies the leadership and commitment we celebrate with this award.”

CPOC commends individuals like Morales, whose contributions enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of probation operations statewide.

The Chief Probation Officers of California is an association of all 58 counties with a shared identity as law enforcement leaders. COPC said it is committed to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change.

“Their leadership guides policy and practice in prevention, community-based corrections, secure detention for youth, and direct human services.” the organization claims. “CPOC aims to prevent crime and delinquency, reduce recidivism, restore victims, and promote healthy families and communities.

For more information about CPOC, please go to [www.cpoc.org](http://www.cpoc.org).

**New Santa Ana:**[**The O.C. Probation Department’s Division Director receives statewide recognition**](https://newsantaana.com/the-o-c-probation-departments-division-director-receives-statewide-recognition/)

**Art Pedroza**

**December 9, 2024**

Orange County, Calif. – December 9, 2024 – The Orange County Probation Department’s Division Director Scott Chandler was recognized at the 2024 Annual Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) Awards Ceremony with the Affiliate Employee of the Year Award for the California Association of Probation Services Administrators (CAPSA). This honor highlights Scott’s exemplary leadership, dedication, and significant contributions to advancing the probation profession in California.

“Scott Chandler exemplifies the very best of Orange County Probation. His unwavering dedication, innovative thinking, and ability to foster meaningful connections with both staff and the individuals we serve is truly inspiring,” said Daniel Hernandez, Chief Probation Officer, Orange County Probation Department. “We are beyond proud to celebrate his exceptional contributions and this well-deserved statewide recognition.”

With over 27 years of service to the Orange County Probation Department and more than a decade as a Probation Manager, Scott has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to improving outcomes for individuals on probation. Since joining the California Association of Probation Services Administrators (CAPSA) in 2017, Scott has brought his expertise to various roles within the organization, including Secretary, Vice Chair, and Chair of the CAPSA Southern Region Board. His efforts have fostered a collaborative and engaging environment, encouraging the participation of other managers and leaders.

In his current role as Division Director overseeing AB109, Scott has been instrumental in enhancing services for those under probation supervision. He expanded the department’s basic needs program, a transformative initiative for many reentering their communities, often with little to no resources. Scott’s passion for supporting individuals in their journey toward stability and success has enabled the department to extend its reach and impact, and directly impacts the long-term safety of communities.

“Scott’s leadership and unwavering commitment have left a profound mark on both the Orange County Probation Department and the CAPSA Southern Region,” said Kelly Vernon, CPOC President and Tulare County Probation Chief. “His ability to lead with compassion and a clear vision continues to inspire those around him and makes the probation profession better throughout the state.”

CPOC recognizes leaders like Scott Chandler, whose efforts align with its mission to enhance public safety through innovative approaches to community-based corrections and rehabilitation.

The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) is an association of all 58 counties with a shared identity as law enforcement leaders. CPOC is committed to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change. Their leadership guides policy and practice in prevention, community-based corrections, secure detention for youth, and direct human services. CPOC aims to prevent crime and delinquency, reduce recidivism, restore victims, and promote healthy families and communities.

For more information about CPOC, please go to [www.cpoc.org](http://www.cpoc.org).

**Deputy Chief of the San Mateo County Probation Department Receives Statewide Recognition**

**San Mateo, Calif. – December 3, 2024 –** San Mateo County Probation Department Deputy Chief Moniay Wade was recognized at the 2024 Annual Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) Awards Ceremony as the Bay Region Employee of the Year, an honor celebrating outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to the field of probation.

**“Deputy Chief Wade’s leadership fosters a culture of balance between accountability and staff wellness, ensuring both departmental success and community well-being,” said John Keene, Chief Probation Officer of San Mateo County. “He exemplifies a commitment to improving service delivery for the residents of San Mateo County while serving as a role model and mentor for staff at all levels.”**

Deputy Chief Wade embodies the department’s core values of teamwork, professionalism, excellence, and integrity. While his administrative role focuses on operational leadership, his impact extends across all divisions of the department. Whether volunteering his time and expertise at juvenile hall to connect with youth, supporting staff to strengthen officer safety practices, or mentoring staff to enhance the quality of court reports, Wade consistently goes above and beyond in his commitment to the probation profession and San Mateo County.

**“Deputy Chief Moniay Wade’s dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to both his team and the community exemplify the spirit of this award and probation work throughout California,” said Chief Kelly Vernon, President of CPOC and Chief Probation Officer of Tulare County. “He is an inspiration to those around him and a true asset to the probation field.”**

CPOC recognizes leaders like Deputy Chief Wade for their dedication and effort to improve the field of probation in California.