

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

400 McAllister Street, Room 205
San Francisco, CA 94102-4512
Phone: 415-551-5737
FAX: 415-551-5701



T. MICHAEL YUEN
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Contact:

Ann E. Donlan
(415) 551-5957
adonlan@sftc.org
Follow Us on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/SFSuperiorCourt>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 23, 2015

SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT BENCH HIRES NEW ADULT PROBATION CHIEF

SAN FRANCISCO -- The San Francisco Superior Court announced today that Karen Fletcher, the former Acting Chief Probation Officer in Santa Clara County who has 25 years of experience in the field of community corrections, has been selected to serve as the Chief Adult Probation Officer for the City & County of San Francisco.

Fletcher replaces Wendy Still, who has served as the Adult Probation Chief since 2010. As Acting Chief Probation Officer, Fletcher was responsible for leading the 893-member Santa Clara County Probation Department and overseeing an annual operating budget of \$141 million and more than \$25 million in grant funding.

"We are thrilled to bring Karen Fletcher to San Francisco to lead our progressive Adult Probation Department," Presiding Judge John K. Stewart said. "Karen is a career probation professional with vast experience in adult and juvenile community corrections. Her top-level managerial experience in Santa Clara County and proven track record of collaboration with justice and community partners, staff, and clients are among her chief assets that will continue the excellence of the Adult Probation Department."

"I congratulate the San Francisco Superior Court Bench for its selection of Karen Fletcher

-MORE-

SFSC/ADULT PROBATION CHIEF
2-2-2-2

as Chief Probation Officer of the City & County of San Francisco,” said San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee. “Ms. Fletcher will bring her vast experience in adult probation to San Francisco to help reduce reoffending, increase public safety and ensure that the diverse communities of San Francisco are served. I thank Wendy Still for leading the San Francisco Adult Probation Department and advancing the agency’s mission of protecting the community, serving justice, and changing lives. Her collaborative approach with law enforcement and community partners helped thousands of clients and made our communities safer.”

Fletcher, whose start date is April 1, thanked the Judges of the San Francisco Superior Court and Mayor Lee for selecting her to manage San Francisco’s rehabilitation-focused Adult Probation Department.

“Leading the nationally recognized and renowned Adult Probation Department in San Francisco is a professional achievement I have worked for since the start of my corrections career in 1989,” Fletcher said. “I am eager to build on the accomplishments and innovations achieved by Chief Still, who launched realignment and achieved the envisioned success of integrating more offenders safely back into the community. I will build on those successes and continue to guide the department with results-oriented evidence-based practices, which directs resources to proven strategies to promote clients’ success and foster public safety. I look forward to working with the talented professionals and staff of the Adult Probation Department.”

Fletcher began her probation career in Santa Clara as a Deputy Probation Officer in 1989. During her career in Santa Clara County, she also served as a Supervising Probation Officer and Probation Manager. In May 2005, she was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief Probation Officer where she provided direct oversight of the department’s three divisions, Adult Services, Juvenile Services and Juvenile Institutions. During this time, Fletcher:

- Led the collaboration with partners in crafting the county’s Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors in August 2011.

-MORE-

SFSC/ADULT PROBATION CHIEF

3-3-3-3

- Reorganized the Adult Services Division for the implementation of Public Safety Realignment.
- Crafted and implemented the Probation Department's arming policy and all firearms training.
- Established high risk offender units.
- Implemented evidence-based practices training, policies and practices in both adult and juvenile services.
- Implemented the use of a graduated sanctions model for youthful offenders.
- Reduced the number of youth detained in Juvenile Hall through the use of community resources.
- Resolved disputes related to labor agreements and grievances through strong communication and relationship-building.

While Acting Chief, she initiated the development of a 3-year evidence-based practices strategic plan and directly supervised five executive managers. She served on 18 committees, including chair of the Community Corrections Partnership and co-chair of the Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative.

Fletcher also served as a U.S. Probation Officer from September 1993 – September 1994.

A 1985 graduate of San Jose State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology, Fletcher earned a Master's degree from San Jose State University in 1990 in Speech Communication Studies with a concentration in organizational communication. Most recently, Fletcher enhanced her education credentials by attending the Harvard School of Government in 2013 in the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program. In 2011, she attended the Stanford Center for Professional Development at Stanford University in the Leadership and Transformation Program.

Fletcher is a member of the American Probation and Parole Association; Harvard Kennedy School of Government Alumni Association; EBP Society Evidence Based Professionals; and the California Probation, Parole and Corrections Association.

###