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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!

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ROBERT CARROLL NAMED NEW
CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney Larry D. Morse II today announced the appointment of veteran prosecutor Robert Carroll as the new chief deputy district attorney. Carroll replaces longtime Assistant District Attorney Joseph Tresidder who retired in December. Carroll, 52, is a native Californian. One of eight children, he was raised in Whittier and graduated from St. Paul's High School. He attended Rio Hondo Community College and earned his Bachelor's and Juris Doctorate Degrees from Western State University. He is the father of two sons.

Carroll began working for Merced County in 1994 and has spent considerable time as an attorney in both the Public Defender's Office and the Merced County District Attorney's office. An experienced litigator, Carroll has taken more than 75 cases to jury trial.

"I am very pleased to have a person of Rob's talent and integrity as one of our chief deputies. He has been a respected leader in the office for many years and brings nearly two decades of courtroom experience to the position," said Morse. Carroll said he was "deeply appreciative" of the appointment. "I'm looking forward to helping manage a wonderful group of people, both attorneys and support staff. These are challenging times and we must be even more resourceful to ensure that we protect our communities. Our first priority must always be to take dangerous and violent offenders off the streets, but I have seen through years of coaching youth sports that we must also provide meaningful alternatives to our kids to keep them away from crime," Carroll said.

According to Morse, the Merced County District Attorney's Office has 90 full and part-time employees, including 26 lawyers. Carroll joins Harold Nutt and John Goold as Chief Deputies. Last year the office filed 6,956 misdemeanors and 2,804 felonies and 1,510 juvenile petitions for a total of 11,270 cases. Morse said the office currently has 35 open homicide cases, including 13 that are considered gang related. The juvenile filings represent a 25 percent increase over the previous year, he added.

"Other counties our size don't have nearly the number of serious cases that Merced has, especially homicides," Morse said. "Our attorneys continue to handle one of the highest caseloads in California. We've also lost some very experienced attorneys in recent years to the bench and retirement and I'm grateful to have a lawyer of Rob's stature to help train our younger prosecutors," he added.