



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL  
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

70 West Hedding Street  
East Wing, 9th Floor  
San José, California 95110-1770

**James R. Williams  
COUNTY COUNSEL**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 18, 2020

**Contact:**

Erin Pelton, [epelton@mercuryllc.com](mailto:epelton@mercuryllc.com)

Phone: 202-352-0442

**Statement from Santa Clara County Counsel James R. Williams on the  
Supreme Court's DACA Ruling**

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, Calif. (June 18, 2020) — Santa Clara County Counsel James R. Williams released the following statement today on the Supreme Court's decision overturning the Trump administration's rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program:

“Today, the Supreme Court sided with the County in an historic decision rejecting the Trump Administration's heartless repeal of DACA and upholding promises made to hundreds of thousands of deserving young immigrants. We challenged the DACA repeal to vindicate the rights of these young people to pursue their dreams and contribute to the only country they have ever called home—including, now, in critical roles as frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19. This is a victory for all Americans: The Supreme Court did right by DACA recipients today, and it did right by our country. Under today's decision, these hardworking young immigrants, including an estimated 23,000 Santa Clara County residents, can continue to live, study, and work without fear. We applaud the Supreme Court's repudiation of the Trump Administration's un-American, anti-immigrant action, and we stand ready to continue to fight for our immigrant communities.”

###

**Background on the County's DACA lawsuit**

The County of Santa Clara is one of the plaintiffs that sued to overturn the Trump Administration's action repealing the DACA program. Under DACA, certain immigrants who were brought to this country as children are protected from deportation and receive authorization to work lawfully. The Trump Administration's decision to end the program placed hundreds of thousands of young people at risk of deportation. The County and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 521 filed suit in October 2017, shortly after the Trump Administration announced its decision to dismantle the DACA program.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Northern California issued a preliminary injunction partly blocking the repeal of DACA in response to a motion filed jointly by the County of Santa Clara, SEIU Local 521, individual DACA recipients, the states of California, Maine, Maryland, and Minnesota, the University of California, and the City of San José. The Ninth Circuit upheld the preliminary injunction and other initial rulings of the district court on November 8, 2018.

Santa Clara County is home to an estimated 23,000 DACA-eligible individuals. The County lawfully employs DACA recipients in many critical roles, and SEIU Local 521 represents many of these workers. Repeal of DACA would be devastating to these County residents and employees and their families, and would also hinder the County's ability to serve the community.

### **About the Santa Clara County Counsel's Office**

The Office of the County Counsel serves as legal counsel to the County, its Board of Supervisors and elected officials, every County department and agency, and the County's boards and commissions. With a staff of over 200, the Office is also responsible for all civil litigation involving the County and its officers. Through its Social Justice and Impact Litigation Section, the Office litigates high-impact cases, drafts innovative local ordinances, and develops policies and programs to advance social and economic justice. The Section also defends the County in select cases with the potential to significantly affect the County's ability to provide critical safety net services to vulnerable residents. The Section is part of a growing movement to use the power and unique perspective of local government to better serve the community and to drive long-lasting change at the local, state, and national levels.

### **About the County of Santa Clara, California**

The government of the County of Santa Clara serves a diverse, multi-cultural population of 1.9 million residents – more populous than 14 states. With a \$8.1 billion annual budget, dozens of departments and agencies, and over 20,000 employees, the County provides essential services to its residents, including public health protection, environmental stewardship, medical services through the County of Santa Clara Health System, child and adult protection services, homelessness prevention and solutions, roads, park services, libraries, emergency response to disasters, protection of minority communities and those under threat, access to a fair criminal justice system, and many others.