



MARK VARELA

***Chief Probation Officer, Ventura County
Board Composition: Chief Probation Officer from
a county with a population over 200,000
(Appointed by the Governor)***

Mark Varela is a Ventura County native and attended local schools. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara in the field of Law and Society.

Mark began his career in community service in 1988 as a Deputy Probation Officer for the Ventura County Probation Agency. He rose through the agency's ranks to his current assignment as Director/Chief Probation Officer. Mark and his staff of nearly 430 dedicated deputy probation officers, corrections services officers, and specialized support personnel are responsible for the community supervision of over 9,000 Ventura County adults and juveniles on probation; supervision duties of offenders in juvenile custodial facilities; direct investigative report services to the Ventura County Superior Court and delivery of specialized services to hundreds of individuals participating in enhanced community-based and Court partnership programs.

During his lengthy career, Mark has played a key leadership role in the design, development, implementation and oversight of many innovative and successful delinquency programs including, but not limited to: Oxnard/Ventura's Gang Violence Suppression Programs, Boys and Girls Club of Oxnard/Port Hueneme's Targeted Re-Entry Program; the California Endowment's Healthy Returns Initiative; the Juvenile Facilities' Commitment Services Program; Oxnard's Evening Reporting Center and the

Ventura County Adult Reporting and Resource Center. In addition, Mark played an important role in the Juvenile Justice Center's construction oversight and policy development team and he was instrumental in establishing California's first Boys and Girls Club facility within a juvenile detention center.

Mark plays an active role within the local criminal justice and social services field. He is currently the Chair of the Ventura County Community Corrections Partnership and he co-Chairs the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Executive Steering Committee, and the Reducing Ethnic Disparities Task Force. Mark has been an active member of the Ventura County Executive Committee, Ventura County Management Council, and the Community Commission of Ventura County. Mark is a past President (2015) of the Chief Probation Officers of California Association. Mark is the Coordinator of the County of Ventura's Annual United Way Giving Campaign and is currently a member of United Way of Ventura County's Board of Directors and Ventura Police Community Foundation's Executive Committee.