



# MELISSA WILK

## ALAMEDA COUNTY

### AUDITOR-CONTROLLER/CLERK-RECORDER

### *November 2021 Newsletter*

## *Message from Melissa*

Dear Alameda County,

This past week has been a sad and solemn one for all of us. I am heartbroken by the sudden and tragic death of Supervisor Wilma Chan, who had faithfully served District 3 and this county for more than 15 years.

While we have much to share in this newsletter about how we are serving all of you, I wanted to dedicate my message this month to the extraordinary life and service of Wilma Chan.



Among her many responsibilities, Supervisor Chan chaired the Board of Supervisors Health Committee, and was instrumental in leading our county during the pandemic. She was widely regarded as one of Alameda County's greatest champions for protecting everyone's right to health care.

Her long list of accomplishments include saving San Leandro Hospital and preserving its emergency room, pioneering Alameda County to become the first county in the nation to connect all eligible children to health care coverage, and forming the Alameda County First Five Commission.

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***All County offices will be closed on Thursday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day. We will re-open on Friday, November 12 at 8:30am.***



Supervisor Chan was also a trailblazer. She was the first Asian American elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Prior to her most recent tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Wilma Chan was elected to three terms in the California State Assembly, where she became the first woman and Asian American to be named Majority Leader.

Wilma Chan fought hard for everyone and was the embodiment of compassion, dedication, and service. It



is impossible to express the tremendous impact her passing will have on us all. Our hearts go out to Supervisor Chan’s family, especially her children and grandchildren who were her greatest source of pride and happiness. She will be greatly missed by us all.

With deepest sympathy,

*Melissa Wilk*

## Presenting: Our New Agency Logo-Seal!



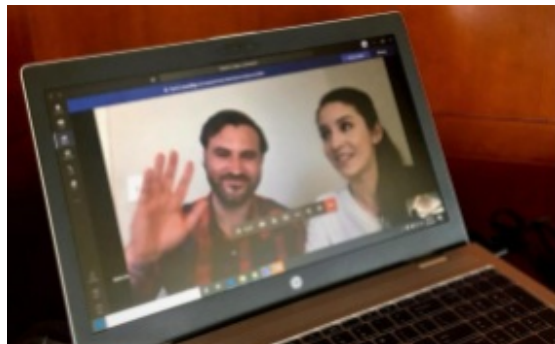
We're excited to present the first logo-seal that represents the combined Offices of the Auditor-Controller and the Clerk-Recorder.

The main focal point of our new official logo-seal is the image of the open book which signifies transparency and access to the documents and records within our offices. The left side of the book depicts an image of money, representing the Auditor-Controller’s role in financial oversight, accountability and reporting, and the right side of the book depicts an official document representing the duties of the Clerk-Recorder's Office. The shield and lock at the bottom center of the logo convey the importance of security and safekeeping of public resources and records. Alameda County’s beautiful and vibrant community and environment is celebrated through the image of blue water, the green hills and the golden sun.

*Click on the logo, above, to learn more!*

## Virtual Marriage Services Extended!

The Alameda County Clerk-Recorder’s Office is excited to announce the extension of virtual marriage services after the unanimous passage of Assembly Bill 583 by the California State legislature.



*(Alameda County's first virtually married couple, May 2020.)*

In April 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order allowing counties to temporarily issue virtual marriage services because of the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order. Assembly Bill 583 extends that program for at least another two years and allows

counties to continue to offer virtual marriage services in California. Now that the Governor has signed AB 583 into law, the Alameda County Clerk-Recorder’s Office is ready and happy to continue offering virtual marriage services for our customers

The Alameda County Clerk-Recorder’s Office created one of the state’s first virtual marriage programs just five days after the executive order was issued. Since launching our virtual marriage services in May 2020, the Clerk-Recorder’s Office has issued over 3,500 marriage licenses and performed over 2,300 virtual marriage ceremonies for couples all over California.

Our virtual marriage services are fully online and paperless. If you are interested in our virtual marriage services, please visit our [website](#) or contact our office at (510) 272-6362.

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## Want to Tie the Knot? *Here's What to Expect*



*Plan ahead to help us create a beautiful day!*

*Due to high demand and limited availability at other counties, demand for our marriage services have increased significantly. As a result, it could take several weeks to get the services you need. If you are planning to get married over the holidays or in the near future, here are some tips to help make your preparations a little easier.*

All in-person marriage ceremonies are **by appointment only**. You can reserve an appointment up to four weeks in advance through [our online system](#). Fridays tend to fill up quickly, so try to plan in advance if you're aiming to tie the knot on a Friday.

For all virtual marriage services (licenses and ceremonies), customers are currently experiencing wait times of two to four weeks. Wait times for virtual marriage services can vary depending on demand, so please plan ahead if you have a particular date in mind and we will do our very best to accommodate you.

If you only need a marriage license (and no ceremony), an appointment is not necessary. You can order it online, or stop by our office where we can issue you one on the same day. [Click here](#) for important information on what you will need to obtain a marriage license.

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## Meet Oakland Small Business Owner Ronald Pineda, Another Satisfied Customer!



The Clerk-Recorder's Office recently had the pleasure of helping Oakland small business owner, Ronald Pineda, renew his fictitious business name.

Ronald had a great experience with the Clerk-Recorder's Office and wanted to share it with us and offer tips for other customers.

### **1. What is your business? What do you do?**

*I'm the founder and owner of Vertical Plane Consulting. We help nonprofits, organizations, and leaders develop strategies that impact their systems, communications, and planning. We've been operating for five years in Alameda, Oakland, and the greater Bay Area.*

### **2. Why was it important for you to obtain your fictitious business name (FBN) in the first place?**

*I did not want to operate under my own name. Also, having an FBN would make it easier as my small business expands and grows. For example, if I were to incorporate into an L.L.C. or add a business partner, I would need an FBN to do that and more.*

### **3. How did you find out that you had to renew your FBN?**

*About five months before my renewal deadline, I received a letter in the mail from a third party in Sacramento saying that my FBN needed to be renewed. The letter invited me to send them a payment of \$125 to complete the renewal process on my behalf. It seemed really suspicious, so I called the Clerk-Recorder's Office, and they said renewing my FBN was only \$40! If I hadn't done some research, I would have likely completed that form and been out \$125 without any real assurance that my FBN would be successfully renewed.*

### **4. How was your experience at the Clerk-Recorder's Office?**

*It was so much easier than I had anticipated! Before my visit, the information and care I received from the Clerk-Recorder staff had me really prepared to know what to do. I was also able to confirm the actual steps on the [Clerk-Recorder's Office website](#) When I arrived, I was instructed to wait in an open-air, socially distanced patio area until it was my turn. I waited two minutes before I was helped, and everything after that was really easy. It took less than 10 minutes to renew my FBN. Because of all the time I saved, and feeling great about the service I received, I treated myself to a boba, supporting another small business in Oakland's Chinatown nearby.*

## 5. What advice would you give to other customers who engage services at the Clerk-Recorder's Office?

A great tip I received was to try to come midweek outside of the lunch hours. I arrived on a Tuesday around 3pm and I waited just two minutes before I was helped. Also, prepare your documents in advance of coming. Staff here are friendly and helpful, but the better prepared you are, the better they can serve you. Finally, for my fellow small business owners: Your business is your baby, so treat your business like it's your baby! If you have a fictitious business name, it's really important to get it renewed. Renewing your FBN at the Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office is really a simple process with friendly people to help you.

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## Arts Commission Staff Celebrates National Arts & Humanities Month



The Alameda County Arts Commission is a division of the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency. Melissa Wilk understands that arts, culture and creativity are an essential part of our whole community. She works closely with the four Arts Commission staff members who administer programs in the areas of Arts Education, Public Art, Grants for the Arts, and Arts Advocacy. To learn more, visit the Arts Commission [website](#).

Image above features the Arts Commission staff members Rosa Valdez, Rachel Osajima, Amy Stimmel and Violet Juno who are holding the Board of Supervisors' Proclamation in support of National Arts and Humanities Month for October 2021. The staff are in front of the public art display at the Alameda County Administration building in Oakland. The display features images of Alameda County community members who participated in Art IS Education workshops presented by the Arts Commission and the Alameda County Library.

On October 12, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors honored the 2021 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients and celebrated National Arts and Humanities Month with a proclamation.

### 2021 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award Recipients



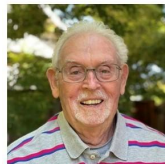
Lisa Bullwinkel



Gregory Conway



Kala Ghaty



Carl Larson



Vanessa Thomas



Angela M. Wellman

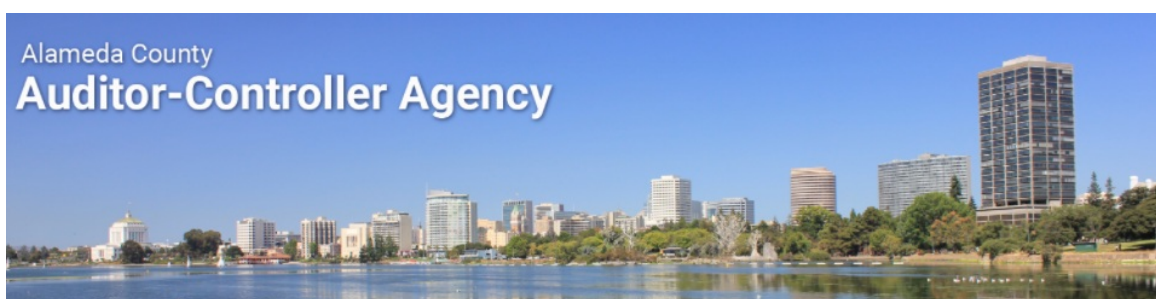
The 2021 Arts Leadership Award recipients were Lisa Bullwinkel, Gregory Conway, Kala Ghaty, Carl Larson, Vanessa Thomas and Angela M. Wellman. The Arts Leadership Awards began in 2003. In total, this awards program has now honored 102 community members!

*"Congratulations to the six award recipients for their outstanding leadership in our community. I am pleased to be able to recognize your exceptional achievements and contributions impacting the arts community and residents of Alameda County!"*

~ Melissa Wilk

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## Career and Internship Opportunities at the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency



Are you looking for a rewarding career in government, where you can apply your knowledge while serving your community?

The Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency is currently seeking applicants for the positions of [Clerk-Recorder's Supervisor I](#) and [Clerk-Recorder's Supervisor II](#).

Compensation Information:

- **Clerk-Recorder's Supervisor I:** \$32.44-\$39.38 Hourly/\$67,475.20-\$81,910.40 Yearly.
- **Clerk-Recorder's Supervisor II:** \$36.75-\$44.66 Hourly/\$76,440.00-\$92,892.80 Yearly.

**These recruitments will close on November 29, 2021 (dates are subject to change). Click [HERE](#) to apply.**

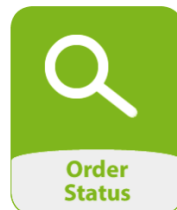
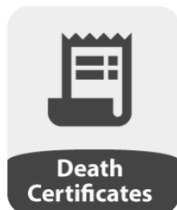
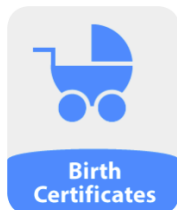
If you have questions about the application process, please click [HERE](#) for more information or call Alameda County Human Resources at (510) 272-6471. For additional information related to these specific openings, [EMAIL](#) Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder's Management Services Unit.

**Internship Program:** We are also seeking applicants for our internship program, which offers an exciting opportunity to begin your career working in local government while working in a collaborative environment and gaining hands-on experience. Our departments offer a wide range of job assignments, ranging from conducting audits of County programs to working with local artists and assisting the local community obtaining their public records.

Part-time and full-time positions are available. Click [HERE](#) for more information. [EMAIL](#) your resume with a cover letter telling us about your experience and why you are interested in working at the Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency.

## SAVE TIME AND ORDER ONLINE

Need your birth, marriage, or death certificate? Save yourself time and order online! Select our *pick-up option* and we can turn around your order in **1-2 business days**. Click below to get started.



## Honoring and Celebrating our Veterans

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Similar ceremonies around the world also took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting on November 11, 1918.

The day officially became known as Armistice Day in 1926 through a Congressional resolution, and became a national holiday twelve years later. In 1954, Congress and President Eisenhower renamed November 11 as Veterans Day to honor all veterans.

In honor of Veteran’s Day this year, Melissa will be attending an event at the Oakland Vet Center with Alameda County Supervisor and Vietnam Veteran, Richard Valle. Melissa and Supervisor Valle will meet with Alameda County Veterans who receive mental health services and community resources at the Oakland Vet Center. They will tour the Center and see the veterans’ art created through the Veterans Art Partnership.



*Melissa Wilk (right) with Rachel Osajima (left), Director of the Alameda County Arts Commission, at the Oakland Vet Center in 2018. For other Veterans Day events in Alameda County [click here](#).*

Since 2014, this unique partnership between the Alameda County Arts Commission and the Oakland Vet Center has provided local Alameda County Veterans with an opportunity to express themselves in a supportive environment, learn new art skills, and build community. During the pandemic, this program was conducted through online virtual events which brought much needed joy, creativity, and stress reduction to participants, helping them combat isolation and depression.

# Community Spotlight: *Dublin Harvest Fair & Emeryville Harvest Festival*



*Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder staff at the Dublin Harvest Fair (left), and at the Emeryville Harvest Festival (right).*

The Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency was excited to support the return of Dublin's Old-Fashioned Harvest Fair on October 9 and Emeryville's Spooktacular Harvest Festival on October 30.

Both events featured family-friendly activities, games, giveaways, and local businesses. Combined, the two community events attracted an estimated 2,200 people.

Dublin's Harvest Fair highlighted the Heritage Park & Museums' rich history in Dublin and encouraged communities across Alameda County to engage in the fun. The City of Dublin has been hosting the Harvest Fair for over a decade. Emeryville's Harvest Festival aimed to provide a safe space for families to connect, enjoy, and celebrate together. Emeryville's festival has been an annual event, and we were excited to see it come back in-person after last year's modified drive through event.

If you would like the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency to attend upcoming events in your community, let us know! [Email](#) Melissa Wilk or follow her on [Twitter](#).



Dublin Harvest Fair's information center and tractor ride (above), and Emeryville Harvest Festival's giveaway booths (below).



## QUESTIONS FOR OUR AGENCY?

Are there upcoming community events that you would like us to attend? Is there a specific question you would like to ask?

[Email](#) Melissa Wilk or follow her on [Twitter](#) to let her know what questions we can answer and how we can support your efforts.



## STAY IN TOUCH

Keep up-to-date on important information from the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency by following Melissa on Twitter ([@MelissaWilkACCR](#)).

If this email was forwarded to you, subscribe to our newsletter by emailing us at [ACCR.info@acgov.org](mailto:ACCR.info@acgov.org).



Visit our Website

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