

For Official Release
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Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
September 13, 2023



Statement from the Office of the Governor

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Public Defender David Vargas at the age of 77. The loss of Counsel Vargas is deeply felt in the local legal community and throughout the American Samoa community. As an attorney, Counsel Vargas zealously represented clients throughout the community over the past four decades. From his years in private practice to his service as the Public Defender, Counsel Vargas was unquestionably dedicated to the legal needs of our community. Counsel Vargas stepped up to accept the role as Public Defender at a time of great need in our community, and for that, American Samoa is forever grateful.