

## Coroner merger was wrong

December 29, 2014

The piece in The Bee (Dec. 27) concerning the quick decision by the Fresno County Supervisors to merge the coroner's office with the sheriff's and district attorney's offices is disturbing. Dr. David Hadden has dedicated much of his life to his duties as Fresno County Coroner. He battled for years to change the horrendous working conditions in an old maggot-filled building to a new location with a modern morgue that is "one of the most sophisticated in the nation."

This merge creates a conflict of interest for Sheriff Margaret Mims. We need a doctor as our coroner. The decision to consolidate these offices was made by people without medical backgrounds. This is ridiculous, yet typical!

Supervisors were told the merger could save the county \$50,000 a year — a pittance! Even Sheriff Mims and Supervisor Henry R, Perea couldn't see how this was possible. This decision, made with little thought, is a slap in the face to Dr. Hadden and his years of dedication. I appreciate him and thank him for his sacrifices and hard work as our coroner.

Once again, Fresno shows it is a big county, with a small-town mentality.

We deserve mediocrity!

Susan Schmale

Sanger

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