



CGJA News - May 2017

A message from the President

Grand juries spend a year researching, investigating, interviewing and writing. After considerable work, the juries send their final reports to the judge for approval and then to the responsible elected officials and governing bodies.

What then happens to these reports that have cost much time and effort? Deep within the Penal Code are the instructions addressing that very topic: §933 states:

One copy of each final report, together with the responses thereto, found to be in compliance with this title shall be placed on file with the clerk of the court and remain on file in the office of the clerk. The clerk shall immediately forward a true copy of the report and the responses to the State Archivist who shall retain the report and all responses in perpetuity.

On a recent visit to the State Archives in Sacramento, I learned that, indeed, they keep all reports, responses and follow-ups. I also learned that many counties never submit the information to the Archives. I was told that it is not up to the Archive personnel to request reports but, as §933 states, it is the responsibility of the court clerk.

The civil grand jury reports are available to the public with no restrictions. They are arranged chronologically by date received, and each year's reports are filed alphabetically. Although the Archive personnel are happy to answer questions, their knowledge of the reports filed is limited. They can be viewed only by the year, not by the county. If you are interested in a past report, your local county grand jury website would be the best place to look.

It's good to know that the many hours of hard work these grand juries put into releasing a quality, informative report have a place in the State Archives *in perpetuity*.

In other news

A big thank you to the Sutter County Chapter (and its President Beckie Jennings) and Assemblymember James Gallagher and staff for the passage of ACR-12: promulgating March as Civil Grand Jury Awareness Month for 2017. This bill passed with an additional 72 voting to have their names added to the bill as sponsors. In the senate, 32 senators voted to have their names added as well. This bill helps raise the awareness of the grand jury and recognizes the volunteer work of the jurors and the important service they provide. The bill can be read on the state website by googling CA ACR12.

Mark your Calendar

The 36th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting of the California Grand Jurors' Association will be held Sunday and Monday, October 29-30, 2017, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Monterey Bay-Seaside. The committee is finalizing plans for an informative and enjoyable conference in beautiful Monterey. The next issue of the Journal will have complete details.

Andi Winters

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