



Meet Our New President

Our new president, Travis Gibbons, has a solid history with CGJA. A trainer since 2016, he serves on multiple training subcommittees along with the Annual Conference and Finance Committees.

He is the CGJA Treasurer and is a member of the board of directors, representing the southern region.

At the annual conference he told us that he thoroughly enjoys teaching and learning. His goals as president are

- Expanding civil grand jury community awareness
- Evaluating and enhancing grand jury effectiveness
- Increasing membership and member involvement in CGJA Committees
- Forming new chapters and improving coordination with existing chapters
- Evaluating potential for a Court CEO Workshop

[Read more](#)

GRAND JURY AWARENESS MONTH 2023

During his term as Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed each February as *Grand Jury Awareness Month*. Some California counties regularly recognize grand jury service in February, and some choose to do this in March.

As many counties have not been recognizing this honorable and voluntary service, this year the CGJA Public Relations committee reached out to each county – through the chapters or by directly contacting Court Executive Offices where there are no CGJA chapters. They were offered a template proclamation to share with their Board of Supervisors.

If your county makes a proclamation – please send us ([Juliana Jones](#)) pictures and any press coverage.



Ask the Trainer by Marsha Caranci, CGJA Training Chair



This regular column allows the CGJA training team to share with Journal readers our responses to questions we receive from grand jurors. Please remember – do not take any response from CGJA as legal advice, and contact your local legal advisors to answer any question that might divulge confidential information.

You can submit your questions to me at cgja_training@cgja.org. Our response to your edited or redacted question might appear in a future edition of the Journal.

[Read this issue's column](#)

Do You Have Ideas for the Annual Conference?

It is not too early to think about the Annual CGJA Conference this coming October. Planning starts the day after the previous conference ends. We know we'll be in Walnut Creek and anticipate exciting panels, a dinner, cocktail time, awards, new officers, and a silent auction.

We are considering adding are round table discussions – an opportunity to gather at four or five tables to explore subjects of interest.



If we add round table discussions, we need **you** to tell **us** what you think the great subjects to discuss should be. For example, would a discussion of how to recruit chapter members would be of interest? How about developing relationships with the press or what can we do to make jury work more effective? Maybe share materials and ideas used to get more grand jurors to sign up?

We would really like to hear what you have to say about what you want to cover. Send your thoughts to [Juliana Jones](#). We will follow up in the coming months to narrow down your amazing ideas to make the 2023 CGJA Annual Conference the best yet!

THANK YOU, CGJA MEMBERS

The Finance Committee's donation campaign raised \$1,400 thanks to generous contributions from members **Marsha Caranci, Lloyd Bell, Scott Law, Joann Landi, Don Hamaguchi, and Karin Hern.**

We thank them for their generosity. It helps CGJA fulfill its mission – to promote, preserve and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach. CGJA President Travis Gibbons personally thanked them. Donations are always appreciated and may be made anytime during the year.



Administrative Assistant for the CGJA Training Program

[Read more](#)

Multi-chapter January Meeting Highlights



How might we get chapter members more involved in the statewide organization? CGJA President **Travis Gibbons** and **Shirley Boracci**, chair of the Chapter Relations subcommittee, are eager to hear your suggestions and learn of current chapter activities.



Diane Lloyd (chair, Membership and Chapter Relations Committee) floated the idea of reduced CGJA dues for current and incoming chapter members. Any interest? Let her know what you think.



Ongoing issues and suggested solutions:

- Relationship with the court – requires caution around issues of bias, conflict of interest, and confidentiality
- Difficulty in recruiting members from the outgoing sitting jury – Suggestions: invite to meetings, offer social activities and food, let them know modest time requirement.
- Grand jury recruitment – banners work. Consider posting on fences, in city parks, and lawn signs in front yards.



Now Available Revised **Chapter Formation Guide** and **Chapter By-laws Template**

CGJA AWARDS: Certificates of Special Recognition

There are many people who do a lot for the Grand Jury and are not members of the CGJA, for example, civic-minded city council members, county officials, legislators, judges, and others.

Their value should be recognized and rewarded. You can do so by nominating them for a **Certificate of Special Recognition** from the CGJA.

Submit a nomination



Foreperson Roundtable Sessions Held in January

from the Training Committee

In response to suggestions from last summer's Foreperson and Pro Tem Workshop attendees, two roundtable discussions were held for sitting forepersons and pro tems via Zoom in January.

They were hosted by members of our Foreperson Workshop training team. [Read more](#)



Improving the Grand Jury Process

by Jerry Lewi

Improving the effectiveness of grand jury reports throughout the state and over time is an overarching goal of CGJA. Effectiveness has been an elusive term to define, but it clearly includes the cases where a grand jury recommendation has been accepted and implemented thus improving the service of a government entity to its clients, the citizens it serves.

A specific CGJA goal and a part of its mission statement is to educate the California public about the value of our unique California Grand Jury system. [Read more](#)

News from Around the State

Double Dosing: How to Get \$2 Worth of Charitable Donations for \$1 Spent *from Janet Clark, Alameda Chapter*

I bought several pieces of great pottery handcrafted by Barbara Norum here in Oakland. She will not accept payment for her work. Instead one must write a check to Tech Trek, a summer STEM camp for middle school girls sponsored by AAUW (American Association of University Women). Once purchased, I donated the items to the CGJA silent auction (an annual conference event).

A real two for one! Now I have to convince the IRS to give me double deduction.

from Doug Gillen, President, GJA Orange County

UC Irvine's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) has asked the association to provide a two-hour presentation on the Grand Jury. The chair of our speakers bureau, Sandy Dunkin, has reached out to Cal State Fullerton to see if they would like to include a similar presentation as part of their OLLI program.

On a different note, we now have 92 applicants for next year's Grand Jury with still a couple more days to go before the application period closes. Very good news.



RECENT BOARD ACTIONS – [Read more](#)

KEEP US POSTED. Send chapter/association news and accomplishments. [Read more](#)

Join/Renew your membership

Serve on a committee - fill out our [Volunteer Interest form](#).

The mission of the CGJA is to promote, preserve, and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach.

Contacts: ***Officers and directors***, chapter and association ***presidents***.

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