

Bruce Frank

I began my Civil Grand Jury experience in 2021, right after I retired from a rewarding career in sales and marketing management. I enjoyed my first term on the 2021-2021 Civil Grand Jury in San Joaquin County and that prompted me to return for a second term in 2022-2023. The experience of leading and participating in several investigative committees, writing impactful reports and establishing great collegial friendships was incredible.

I joined the CGJA Training Team in 2023. It has been a privilege to be part of training teams that have taken me to more than a dozen different counties to conduct civil grand jury training and meet hundreds of new grand jurors. I joined the CGJA Public Relations Committee in 2024, and I have remained involved with the local chapter in San Joaquin County and try to attend as many meetings as events as my schedule allows. I also am enjoying retirement along with my wife Tracy, our two German Shepherds and two African Grey Parrots, all living here in Tracy.

As a director I will strive to carry out the CJGA mission and our top priorities. I believe some of those top priorities to be the recruitment of new civil grand jurors, preparing those jurors to have a fulfilling year of service to their community, and finally encouraging members to remain connected to the CGJA at a level of involvement that they are comfortable with.

Dan Freeman

I am Dan ("Don") Freeman (Central Area), an incumbent Director of CGJA after being appointed when my predecessor was unable to complete her term. I served two years on the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, the second year as Foreperson. I was impressed and gratified by the impact we had on public entities efficiency, proficiency, and conscience to do "right". Since 2021 I have been on the CGJA Finance Committee (FC) and Chair since 2023. A year after I joined the FC, with my strong recommendation, we switched our cash investments from a savings account earning less than 1% interest to short term CDs. Last year, we changed to U.S. Treasuries for more flexibility, less risk and greater yield. This year, with my leadership, we are completing the implementation of a new accounting system to conform to generally accepted accounting principles and produce financial statements that better reflect our activities. I am committed to maximizing CGJA's financial stability in order to continue our mission of training Civil Grand Jurors for decades to come. I am a UC Santa Barbara graduate with a B.A. degree in Political Science and a UCLA Anderson School of Management graduate with an MBA in Finance and Accounting. I was a Management Consulting and Accounting Partner at Ernst & Young for 23 years, followed by 20 years as a business owner and chief operating officer of two large travel companies. I am a retired California and Ohio CPA and live in San Mateo with my wife, Barbara, and our Golden Retriever Max. We have two Millennial daughters and a French son-in-law plus a beautiful one-year old granddaughter. I am eager to continue building the future of CGJA and seek your support for a full term. Thank you.

Karen Michael

After 30 years as a corporate technical writer and editor, project manager, and IT executive, I retired and enjoyed a second career as a certified personal fitness trainer. Volunteering, community, and family are some of my core values. I am the mother of a Type I diabetic and through my involvement with the American Diabetes Association became a founding member and President of the Board of a local ADA chapter. As a fitness trainer, I volunteered at the YMCA leading a class for cancer survivors and received the Palo Alto YMCA's Volunteer of the Year award. I have been a mediator with Palo Alto's community mediation program for 16 years, chaired the organization for six years, and was named Outstanding Volunteer by the National Association for Community Mediation. I also do court mediation one day a week at the county Superior Court to help those facing eviction.

In early 2007, I received an email requesting volunteers for the 2007-2008 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury. It sounded like fun, so I joined, had a fascinating year, and promised myself I'd do it again, which I did in 2015-2016 and again in 2022. (At this rate I should be ready to serve again in 2030!) I have experienced the grand jury's evolution from paper based in 2008, to computer based in 2015, to remote meetings in 2022, to the communication challenges of today's technology. But the importance of helping to improve how our local governments operate has not changed—and I am committed. I became a CGJA trainer in 2023 and am currently Secretary of the Training Committee, member of the Curriculum Subcommittee, and Chair of the Public Relations Subcommittee. If I am elected to the Board, I will apply my skills, experience, and enthusiasm toward CGJA's mission to promote, preserve, and support the civil grand jury system through training, education, and outreach.