

Officers' Meeting Takeaways - from CGJA *Journal* August 2025

OPPORTUNITIES TO EDUCATE SITTING JURORS ABOUT THE CHAPTER

- Build a relationship with the judge and hopefully participate in empanelment, i.e., inform them about the chapter.
- Provide the judge with the CGJA publication "How to Manage the Civil Grand Jury." The chapter president contacts Marsha Caranci at cgjatraining@cgja.org to arrange for the forwarding of this 35-page document. Or provide court staff with the contact information. FYI – CGJA provides training sessions for judges and county counsels for which they get continuing education credit.
- Offer chapter membership.
- During CGJA training, take brief time before or after session to tell them about the chapter.
- Offer lunch during training and use that opportunity to inform them.
- Regarding training opportunities, contact Marsha Caranci at cgjatraining@cgja.org.
- Don't come on too strong. Can be overwhelming.
- Provide a handout/flyer with chapter information.
- Invite to quarterly lunches with interesting speakers.
- Invite to end-of-term luncheon.
- Invite to a chapter social after empanelment.
- Set up a Q&A session with the sitting jury. In this case, it is important to stay abreast of current grand jury law. Following "Ask the Trainer" column in the CGJA *Journal* is a good way to do that.
- Volunteer clerk program - provide assistance to the sitting grand jury (Contra Costa County).
- Try to become indispensable.
- Develop a relationship with the foreperson and pro tem.

HOW TO STAY UP TO DATE ON CURRENT GRAND JURY LAW AND BEST PRACTICES

- Invite a CGJA trainer to meetings and Q&A sessions (contact MCRC at membership@cgja.com).
- Note that the trainers and their resources are available to the sitting grand jury *throughout their term*. Remind sitting jurors of that resource.
- Purchase a copy of the CGJA Training Manual for \$30 (contact training@cgja.org).

OUTREACH

- County places insert about civil grand jury in water and garbage bills (Napa).
- Social media – *Nextdoor* and *Facebook*. Monitor *Nextdoor* and if a relevant issue arises, point out appropriateness for civil grand jury complaint.
- Reach out to Board of Supervisors asking that they encourage applicants from their district.
- Create bookmarks with QR codes and distribute in local libraries.
- Develop contacts with county media outlets.
- Connect with CGJA [Facebook](#) page.
- At orientation, ask "How did you learn about the civil grand jury?"
- See "Chapter Resource Documents" on the CGJA [website](#).
- To add your material or practices to the above, send them (in Word format) to [MCRC](#).
- Give presentation about the civil grand jury to captive attendees gathered in the petit jury selection room (if permitted by the court).
- Tables at county events and farmers' market. In addition to flyers, good draws are swag, candy, and dog biscuits.
- Volunteer for non-jury related activities/events wearing chapter-identifying t-shirts or hats (i.e., increasing visibility).
- Consensus was that it is best to be up front about time commitment, recognizing that it can

be phrased in varying ways regarding the payoff and flexibility in time management, i.e., not on a 9-to-5 schedule.

For more, see "Jury Recruitment" section of the CGJA [website](#).