PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY ASSOCIATION IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GUIDELINES

Under state law, local government entities and officials that are investigated by the grand jury must respond to any recommendations in the grand jury's final report. The allowable responses are that the entity or official: (1) has taken the action recommended in the report; (2) will take the action by a particular date; (3) will study the recommendation within six months of the date the report was released, with a description of the study and a timeframe; or (4) disagrees with the recommendation and will not take the action, with an explanation. (Penal Code 933.05)

- 1. The Placer County Grand Jury Association (PCGJA) has formed an Implementation Review Committee (IRC) to supervise its Implementation Review program and has decided how it will interface with the sitting grand jury. PCGJA will conduct business in writing when communicating with respondent government entities and officials.
- 2. PCGA has designed its IR program to assure mutual support of the sitting grand jury and to avoid any conflict in jurisdiction or roles by notifying the sitting grand jury of prospective review issues so as to not adversely affect or impair the sitting grand jury's relationship or ability to deal with the local government entity or official in question or otherwise interfere with its activities.
- 3. The PCGJA will inform the Placer County Superior Court of its IR Program and guidelines as a matter of cooperation and courtesy.
- 4. Any Chapter member who is a sitting grand juror must not be a member of the IR committee or participate in Chapter IR activities to avoid a possible confusion of roles.
- 5. Chapter members must not engage in statutory activities of the sitting grand jury: e.g., formal interviewing, investigating, or report-writing activities. Only sitting grand juries have the power, authority and limited immunity to

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- do these activities. This does not preclude the Chapter from compiling its own Chapter IR reports for internal use.
- 6. The Chapter may disseminate a governmental entity or official's response to a Chapter IR inquiry by way of a confidential complaint to the sitting grand jury in writing. Only with IRC approval will there be communication with the public or the media.
- 7. All topics of inquiry and written correspondence initiated by the IRC must be approved by a majority of the Chapter before proceeding.
- 8. All IR inquiries are to be initiated by being addressed to a local governmental entity or official with a written communication to the entity or official on the Chapter letterhead so there is a record of what was represented and requested by the Chapter.
- 9. Former grand jurors must always be mindful of their lifetime confidentiality oath when carrying out their IR program. Among other things, they cannot disclose confidential information they learned while serving as grand jurors, including the names or identities of any individuals interviewed by the grand jury, evidence and information gathered in its investigation but not published in a final report and how any grand juror voted on any issue.
- 10. Chapter members must always be professional and avoid any inflammatory statements or provocative activities in carrying out their Chapter IR program in order to minimize the possibility of legal liability or the impairment of the Chapter's credibility.
- 11. Potential liability for Chapter IR activities could arise from defamation, invasion of privacy, harassment, interference with prospective business advantage of acting outside the scope of permitted activities among other causes of action. CGJA does not carry insurance that would provide indemnity or defense for any litigation against a Chapter or former grand juror for IR activities.

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12. The IRC may share the results of successful IR efforts with CGJA and each other through CGJA's informational resources, including the *Grand Jurors' Journal*, the Annual Conference, the regional meetings, the *Grand Jury Achievement Report* and its website at www.cgja.org.

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