

New Look! Check out our conference coverage.

Grand Jurors' Journal
Vol. 23, No. 6
December 2022



Scroll down for
Ask the Trainer and
News from Around the State

Fifty-eight registered attendees and ten dinner guests attended the **39th Annual Conference** on October 23-24, 2022, at the Embassy Suites in San Rafael.

The new board of directors and committee chairs met beforehand.



Pictured clockwise from the left: Board members and committee chairs (clockwise from the left): Gary Cooper, Karen Jahr, Lou Panetta, Travis Gibbons, Diane Lloyd, Barbara Sommer, Lloyd Bell, Shirley Boracci, Janet Clark, Marsha Caranci, Bob Finlayson, Henry Rible. *Photo by Juliana Olinka Jones* (empty chair).



Keynote Speaker

Marin County Supervisor and California Assembly Candidate, **Damon Connolly**, graciously stepped in at the last minute. He described and commented on grand jury reports that have been particularly effective.

The State of the Association

Lou Panetta enumerated the year's successes in outreach and training. We have trained over 1,100 jurors in regional and local sessions and are expecting over 700 jurors to attend our report writing workshops this fall.

We initiated a major social media campaign, primarily on Facebook, highlighting various grand jury recognition awards, report releases, training updates, and publicity from the many media sources around the state. Our social media following has increased over 25%.

[Read his welcoming letter](#)



EIR Awards - Best Grand Jury Report

Judi Sanderlin accepted the 2020-21 San Francisco County Grand Jury's award for ***Van Ness Avenue: What Lies Beneath***. The report brought to the city's attention a hornet's nest of city government inefficiencies and millions of dollars in budget overages on the Van Ness Corridor Transit Improvement Project.

It made the front page of the local paper and received the most press ever of any report in the history of San Francisco Grand Jury.

EIR Awards - Best Media Coverage

Genoa Barrow accepted the award for her extensive, unbiased, and continuing coverage in ***The Observer*** of the grand jury's investigative report ***Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Abandons Responsibility for COVID-19 CARES Act Spending***.

The report detailed the apparent misappropriation of \$181 million dollars and examined the questionable actions of the supervisors during the worldwide pandemic.



PANEL: Stronger Grand Juries/Building Awareness



Moderator, Juliana Olika Jones: San Joaquin (**Fran Block**) and Contra Costa (**Jim Fiedler** and **Anne** saddles of outreach. **Karen Kindschi** (Orange) nails Facebook groups. **Hector Gonzalez**, Court Executive Officer, Tuolumne Superior Court, tells us that the road to influence passes through the court officer. *Photo by Gary Gooper.* [Read More](#)

Grand Jury Effectiveness Workgroup



Bob Finlayson(chair), **Kati Martin** and **Jerry Lewi** described their project involving quantifying the effectiveness of grand jury reports and included a description of a visit to the state archives.

Diversity Study Workgroup

Chair, **Barbara Sommer** listed ways of increasing the appeal of grand jury service.

- Create a welcoming environment.
- Adjust Meeting times to various schedules, use Zoom.
- Time vs. productivity trade-off (1 good report better than 6 mediocre ones).
- For recruiting, in-person contact most effective.
- Contact influencers in various groups.
- Use county HR//diversity resources.
- Publicize good reports.

Each county's jury commissioner is required to maintain a database tracking gender, age range and occupation of prospective grand jurors, those selected, and carry-overs.



The day ended with a gala banquet and a silent auction that netted \$1,717 which will be use to offset conference expenses next year. Thank you to all chapters and individuals who provided items for bid.



Angelo Rolando Service Award

Each year the CGJA honors a member for outstanding service to CGJA. This year's surprised recipient was **Barbara Sommer** in honor and recognition of her exceptional service to CGJA. [Read More](#)



Angelo Rolando Service Award winners over the years

Back row (L to R): Lloyd Bell, Karin Hern, Karen Jahr, Jerry Lewi. Front row: Dianne Hoffman, Barbara Sommer, Marsha Caranci.



PANEL: Best Practices

With **Carolyn Stinemates** (upper left) as the moderator, **Judge Timothy Healy** (lower left) discussed court and chapter relations. When asked about unreceptive judges, he was momentarily speechless – he said "This is what we are supposed to do."



Ray Frisbie (upper right) described how the Shasta County Chapter receives funding from the court for recruiting. [Read More](#)



Henry Rible (lower right) reviewed required CGJA chapter annual filings. [Read More](#)



PANEL: Grand Grand Jury Volunteers



Arthur Rolston (center) with input from audience member and volunteer clerk, **John Rible**, described the Santa Cruz County grand jury volunteer clerks program. Past grand jurors are sworn and provide the sitting grand jury with clerical and technical assistance.

Bob Finlayson (left) and **Charles Cerjan** (right) described their efforts in Contra Costa County. Confidentiality issues loom large. Cerjan advised "Know where the power lines are so you don't get electrocuted."

Photo credits: Juliana Olinka Jones

Take a look at the [2022 Standing Committee Reports](#), and the [2022 Volunteer List](#).

NEXT YEAR: Oct. 22-23, 2023

Embassy Suites, Walnut Creek

[Read More](#)

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 cgjatraining@cgja.org. Our response to your edited or redacted question might appear in a future edition of the Journal.

[Read this issue's column.](#)

Foreperson Roundtable Discussions Set for January

[Details and Signup](#)

Kati Martin and Bob Finlayson Visit the State Archives

[Read More](#)



Ballot Language Reform Needed

"Partisan ballot wording misleads voters as to what our local ballot measures would do, raises government spending, and increases taxes" – from ***In 75 Words: The Urgent Need for***

Honest, Unbiased Ballot Language by Alameda Chapter President **Janet Clark** and Implementation Chair **Michael Kerr**.

Read the [Mercury News article](#)

NEW CHAPTER: San Benito County



President **Roxy Montana** and Secretary **John Lemos** accepted the CGJA Chapter Charter from outgoing president, **Lou Panetta**.

Welcome San Benito **new CGJA members: William Healy, Dennis Lawn, John Lemos, Robert Marden, Nazhat Sharma, and Cherie Toll.**

new MEMBERS

County	Name
Amador	Susan Manning
El Dorado	Jerry Jenson
	Gina Posey
	David Visconti
Humboldt	Tammy Newcomb
	Bob Phibbs
Kern	Kat Green
Lassen	Marshel Couso
Madera	Zygmund Zee
Marin	Janeko Bower
	Deborah Haase
	Stephen Isaacs
	Colleen McGrath
	Gary Stabile
Monterey	Sandy Austin
	Mark Chakwin
	Marilyn Maxner
	Michele Zollna
Napa	James Ehrman
Orange	Stephen Nees
Placer	Marie Fleischhacker
	Gail Graybeal

County	Name
Sacramento	Norval Wellsfry
San Diego	Jonathan Goodmacher
San Francisco	Lorna Hill
	Karen Kennard
	Leslie Stepp
San Joaquin	William Jeffery
	Denise Snider
San Mateo	Jason Wacha
Santa Clara	Karen Delaney
Sonoma	Sharon DeBenedetti
	Mike Gogna
	Susanne Lewald
	Heather McClintock
	Luana Pinasco
	Arnold Rosenfeld
	Debbie Wallman
Stanislaus	Joseph Higgins
	Mickey Johnson
Tuolumne	Robert Canavan
	Jeffrey Lukomski
Yolo	Susan Griffin-McCormick

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](#).

STAY CONNECTED



[Visit our website](#)

The views expressed in the *Grand Jurors' Journal* are those of the writers unless otherwise stated. The CGJA Board of Directors disclaims any liability arising from errors or omissions. The Editor has the right to accept, edit, or reject submitted articles.
©2022 All rights reserved.

California Grand Jurors' Association | 1017 L Street, # 320, Sacramento, CA 95814

[Unsubscribe jjones.cgja@gmail.com](mailto:jjones.cgja@gmail.com)