



# Grand Jurors' Journal

## Vol. 24, No. 6, December 2023

NOTE: We thank Lew Jones for the conference photographs

## CONFERENCE OPENER

President Travis Gibbons, in his welcoming comments, summarized our very successful year with regard to training, updated website, new chapters, and increasing media outreach.

Travis (on the right) is shown here with speaker, **Daniel Borenstein** Editorial page editor of the *East Bay Times* (see below).



## The “Hey, Mabel” Test

by Juliana Olika Jones, Chair, Public Relations Committee

The main speaker for the opening day of the annual conference was **Daniel Borenstein** (pictured above), Editorial Page Editor of the *East Bay Times*. His excellent presentation, a lively one hour including questions and answers, focused on “**Civil Grand Juries and the Media – Emerging Trends.**”

Dan started off with a focus on how the media’s business model has been affected by sites such as Craig’s List, Google, and others. As a result ad revenues are down, and local journalism is in trouble. There are fewer watchdogs in the media, making the work of civil grand juries even more important.

The questions facing efforts to expand awareness of the good work of civil grand juries are how to stand out and how to break through, as civil grand jury reports can only make their intended impact if the public is aware of them. Reports need to reach news reporters. To get to the point,

- Avoid reports that are slow explaining why particular investigations matter.
- Use concise writing.
- Place a brief synopsis at the top to get the attention of the reporter and the public. Borenstein referred to it as the “Hey, Mabel” test – the elevator pitch, or the tweet that grabs the reader’s attention. [Read more.](#)

## New Board Sworn In



Pictured from the left: Karin Hern (inaugural official). Board members: Juliana Jones, Henry Rible, Marsha Caranci, Richard Rogers, Gary Cooper, Bob Finlayson, Travis Gibbons, Karen Jahr, Jim Glover, Karen Deeming, Larry Herbst, and Shirley Boracci.



## San Bernardino Wins Best Report Award



The CGJA annual award recognizes a civil grand jury report that is of high quality, has a positive impact on the community and increases awareness of the California grand jury system.

Bob Finlayson, of the Excellence in Reporting subcommittee (Awards Committee), presented the award to John Bradley who accepted it on behalf of the 2019-20 San Bernardino County Civil Grand Jury. [Read more.](#)



## The Breakout Sessions Were Highly Rated

This year's Annual Conference included five break-out sessions on a myriad of subjects. Attendees had the opportunity to choose which topic they were most interested in but were free to move to a second session during the allotted 45 minutes. After a short break, each group reported out the information gained, to share with the attendees at large. See details below.



**Kendall Tieck** (profile on left), Nevada County and CGJA Technology Committee member, led the breakout session titled **Building Bridges with Technology** – best practices for leveraging technology for effectiveness and efficiency. [Handouts](#).



**Paul Sullivan** and **Mike Henn** (second and third from the left), Alameda County, led **The Need for Accuracy and Fairness in Local Ballot Language** session. [Handouts](#).



**Your Association – Attracting, Motivating, and Recruiting Members** was led by **Anne Granlund**, Contra Costa County (far right). [Handouts](#).



**Laura Griffin**, Contra Costa County (far right), led the **Recruiting Jurors Through Filming** breakout session. [Handouts.](#)



**Loydyne Lane** (facing camera), Nevada County, led the fifth breakout group on **Organizing a Grand Jury Education Program** using the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. [Handouts.](#)

## **Lou Panetta Earns Rolando Service Award** by Joann Landi, Chair, Awards Committee



The Angelo Rolando Service Award is given in recognition of outstanding, long-time service to the association in support of its goals and objectives at both the state and local level. **Marsha Caranci** presented this year's award to **Lou Panetta**.

Lou first served on the Monterey County Grand Jury in 2015 as *pro tem* and continues to be active in both his local chapter and at all levels of CGJA. He became a trainer in 2016, currently training jurors in five of the eight core topics, and serves as a team leader.

He is on several training committees, chairs the Technology Committee and has served on various other CGJA committees. Lou is a past president and vice president of the association and recently completed serving his third term as a director. Over the last eight years, his commitment has been unwavering, fully embodying its mission to promote, preserve and support the California grand jury system.



**Past Rolando Award recipients** (pictured from left to right): Larry Herbst; Karen Jahr;;Lloyd Bell; Marsha Caranci; Jerry Lewi; Karin Hern; current awardee, Lou Panetta and his spouse, Kathy.

## Keynote: Creating Awareness Through Action Ethan Rarick, Executive Director, Little Hoover Commission by Jerry Lewi



**Ethan Rarick** pointed out that the Little Hoover Commission is the only independent, *permanent* citizens' commission in the country working to improve state government.

Its thirteen members are appointed by the governor and the legislative leadership. It makes recommendations to the governor and the legislature for "promoting economy, efficiency, and improved service" in state government.

He compared the commission structure and operation with that of the grand jury. [Read more.](#)

# Keys to Successful Juror Recruitment



**Spencer Sias** (shown on right), was one of the highest rated portions of the program. Panelists are **Jeanne Jelke** (Shasta), **Lou Panetta** (Monterey), **Anne Granlund** (Contra Costa), and **Mauro Lara** (Sacramento).

When it comes to recruiting new jurors, CGJA members have a lot of ideas and techniques that have helped to increase the number and diversity of civil grand applicants in many counties. The panelists described multi-faceted programs that included advertising, social media programs, speakers' bureaus, radio interviews, lawn signs, Op Eds, and personal invitations. Also contributing to the discussion were **Karen Kindschi** of Orange County and **Tom Mastre** of Monterey County

"The aim was to get a cross-conference exchange of ideas that could help all county chapters to strengthen their recruiting programs," said panel moderator Spencer Sias of Marin County. [Read more.](#)



## New Chapters - Nevada County and Los Angeles

**Shirley Boracci** of the Membership and Chapter Relations Committee, presented *Certificates of Affiliation* to **Loydyne Lane** for Nevada County and to **Carina Lister** for Los Angeles County.

## Good Times



CGJA Trainers having fun together at dinner. Standing, left to right: Bob Finlayson, Gary Hoffmann, Marsha Caranci, Richard Rogers, Karen Jahr, Karen Michael, and Lou Panetta. Seated, left to right: Ron Chestnut, Spencer Sias, Juliana Jones, and Bob Phibbs.



Candid photos (Thank you, Lew Jones)



The silent auction brought in \$2,205.

See Last Year's [List of Volunteers.](#)  
Access the [Standing Committee Reports.](#)

## Ask the Trainers by the Training Committee Co-chairs



Marsha Caranci

*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 responses as legal advice and contact your local legal advisors to answer any question that might divulge confidential information.*

*Please submit your questions to us at [cgjatraining@cgja.org](mailto:cgjatraining@cgja.org). Our response to your edited or redacted question might appear in a future edition of the Journal.*



Richard Rogers

**Q. What's the difference between an inquiry and an investigation? Must an investigative committee first seek a supermajority vote for a limited investigation and then get a second vote for a full investigation?**

**A.** An inquiry is the first stage of any investigation, when the investigating committee gathers sufficient evidence to decide whether a full-scale investigation is worthwhile. An internal inquiry that is limited to research of publicly available documents or websites does not require a supermajority vote. However, any inquiry or investigation that involves external jury contacts or activities such as interviews or site visits requires supermajority approval. [Read more.](#)

**Q. For follow-up reports, what role does a previous report play in a new investigation? Should the previous report drive the new investigation if an entity has failed to respond properly or follow through with a previous commitment to implement a recommendation?**



**A.** Under Penal Code Section 939.9, follow-up reports on topics covered in previous jury reports require a full re-investigation that enables the current jury to gather and verify its own information. [Read more.](#)

**Q. We would like to release our first individual report early this year. Can our presiding judge require our jury to delay releasing any of our reports until the end of our term? The custom within our county is for the civil grand jury to release all our reports only within the final consolidated report for our term.**

**A.** Penal Code section 933(a) states that the jury can submit its reports to the judge at any time during its term but does not require the judge to release them to the public within any particular time frame. [Read more.](#)

**LAST CHANCE – *Registration is still open for one more CGJA Report Writing Workshop***

[See details.](#)

## News from Around the State

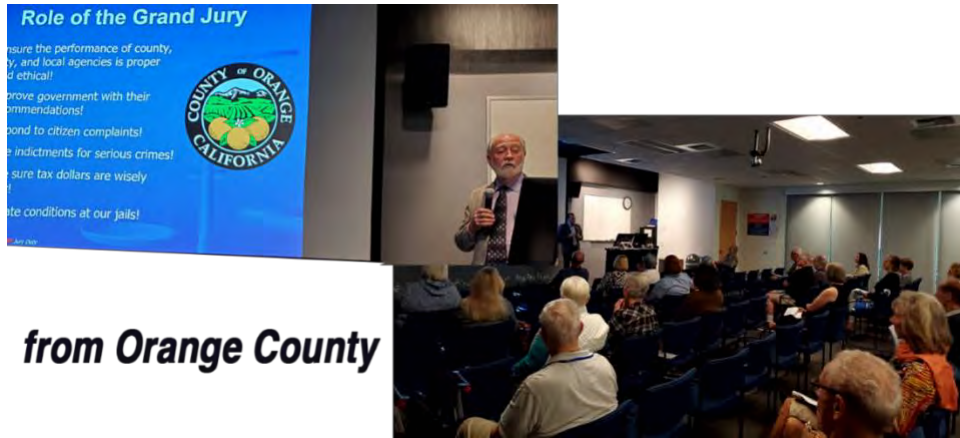
***from San Joaquin County***

### **NAACP honors CGJA Director, Gary Cooper**

On November 18, the NAACP Stockton Branch held their Freedom Fund Gala and award ceremony in Stockton. Tracy native, Gary Cooper, was honored for his work with the community, volunteer organizations, and the San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury.

Cooper holds a master’s degree in organizational management, leading to a career in the transportation industry in a management position, where he trains colleagues in compliance with government regulations. [Read more.](#)





**from Orange County**

**by Doug Gillen, Chair, BOD, Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County**

At the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UC Irvine. **John Siragusa**, chair of the 2022-23 Grand Jury, and **Doug Gillen**, chair of the association, described reports and covered the basics of grand jury service.

Held for several years, the presentations provide an excellent opportunity for residents to become familiar with what the grand jury can do for Orange County. There were many questions and attendees left with a much greater understanding of how our reports can impact county, city, and other agencies.

## Bernadette Cheyne, 1949-2023

by Marsha Caranci



Bernadette Cheyne, 74, passed away on October 30th after a battle with brain cancer. Bernadette was a valued member of CGJA, having served as a trainer since 2017. She also served on the board of directors for two terms, on the Training Committee for five years, and as a member of the Trainer Subcommittee, helping to mentor new trainers.

Bernadette was also active in the Humboldt County Chapter, having served on the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury for two terms and as foreperson during the 2017-18 term.

Bernadette spent more than 20 years as a professor in the Theatre, Film, and Dance Department at Humboldt State University. After retirement, she acted in and directed plays at the Redwood Curtain Theatre, in addition to training grand jurors across the state. She also dedicated many hours as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, mentoring children in need.

I will always remember Bernadette as a smart, kind, and hardworking woman who was willing to do anything for a cause she believed in. She was a wonderful trainer for CGJA. She brought her theatrical skills to the podium, engaging her students. She will be missed by all of us who had the pleasure of working with her.

Bernadette's family and friends will gather to celebrate Bernadette's life at the Moonstone Beach House on December 2 from 12-4 p.m. Read the full [obituary](#).

# new MEMBERS

County	Name
Marin	Jenna Brady
Santa Barbara	Darren Brown
San Bernardino	Joanna Hamilton
Stanislaus	Jeffrey Olson
Yolo	Richard Warg

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**Recent Board Actions** – Click [here](#).



## **IT'S THE GIVING SEASON**

Please include **CGJA** in your year-end charitable giving. Our mission to promote, preserve, and support the grand jury system through training, education, and outreach, is made possible by your continuing support.

*You can donate by clicking here: [Support Us - California Grand Jurors' Association \(cgja.org\)](#)*

*Or send a check to: CGJA Treasurer, 1017 L St, #320, Sacramento, CA 95814*

## *Keep us Posted*

Format articles in Word and send as email attachments to Barbara Sommer, [editor@cgja.org](mailto:editor@cgja.org). For more details see [How to submit an article](#).

**DEADLINE for submitting articles for publication in the next issue.**

**January 22, 2024**

**Change of address** – Please notify the [editor@cgja.org](mailto:editor@cgja.org) of any email address changes.

## *Join/Renew your membership*

**Serve on a committee - see the [committee descriptions](#).**

**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*

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