



CGJA Journal

Vol. 26, No. 3, June 2025

CGJA Trainers Attend Workshop

Ten new CGJA trainers and 25 veteran trainers attended an intense three-day New Trainer Orientation and Train-the-Trainer Workshop in Sacramento on May 2, 3, and 4.



The topics covered included: a review of the 2025 curriculum changes, legal issues and challenges, how to keep an audience engaged, best practices, and an interesting discussion about the use of AI by grand juries. [Read more.](#)



CGJA's **Best Civil Grand Jury Report** and **Best Media Coverage** nominations are due **June 30**.

See nomination details: [Best Report](#) and [Best Media Coverage](#).

Ask the Trainers by the Training Committee Co-chairs



Marsha Caranci



Richard Rogers

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

Questions

Are report recommendations ever shared during exit interviews?

We're having trouble getting everyone together to vote approval on some of our reports. What is CGJA's position on voting during a remote meeting, by telephone, or by proxy?

If we issue all our reports in a consolidated report at the end of the term instead of releasing them individually, is it okay to give the whole consolidated report to the Board of Supervisors two days before it is published, or do we have to deliver each individual report separately?

[Read the answers.](#)

CGJA's Annual Conference Heads to San Luis Obispo This October (and we want your input)

Save the date: October 26-27, 2025, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Luis Obispo.

The CGJA Annual Conference Committee has been busy planning for this year's program and are putting the final touches on the event.



We are excited to announce that the **Keynote Address** will be by **Dr. Foaad Khosmood**, a Forbes Endowed professor of computer engineering at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He will speak about Artificial Intelligence for everyday people, although Grand Jury members are a bit more special, right? [Read more](#) about conference events.

Nominate a Fellow Member

**Angelo Rolando
Service Award**



Each year the CGJA honors a member for outstanding service with the **Angelo Rolando Service Award**.

The award is presented at the Annual Conference in October. Nominations will be accepted for consideration by the Angelo Rolando Service Award Committee until August 29, 2025. [See details](#).

SoCal Online Regional Meeting

by James Bukowski, Secretary, Los Angeles Chapter

Southern California CGJA chapters and associations held for the first time on April 16, 2025, an online multi-chapter meeting that included representatives from Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. [Read more](#).



Humboldt

On February 26, 2025, the Humboldt Chapter received an honor from the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Rex Bohn read a proclamation declaring February Civil Grand Jury month. Chapter members felt fortunate to be part of civil grand jury history and proud to be part of CGJA (see below).



From the left: Clare Greene, Vice President; Lettie Dyer, Board Member; Connie DeCoe-Munier, President; Rex Bohn, Humboldt County Supervisor (presenting the proclamation); Vicky Joyce, Board Member; Jim Glover, Secretary-Treasurer; and Wayne Venteluth, Immediate Past President (not shown).

The chapter is exploring new projects and continuing established ones. Progress will be reported throughout the year.

Mendocino

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors acknowledged the important work of the Civil Grand Jury by issuing a Proclamation recognizing March 2025 as Civil Grand Jury Awareness Month. Most of the members of the current Civil Grand Jury and Judge Ann Moorman attended the board meeting. Shown are the Mendocino County Supervisors with the Civil Grand Jury.



Monterey

The Monterey chapter has been busy with recruitment and education presentations from Pebble Beach to Salinas. Audiences have asked good questions and were engaged and interested in serving on the civil grand jury. In addition, in early May, chapter members screened candidates for the 2025-26 civil grand jury year with court staff.

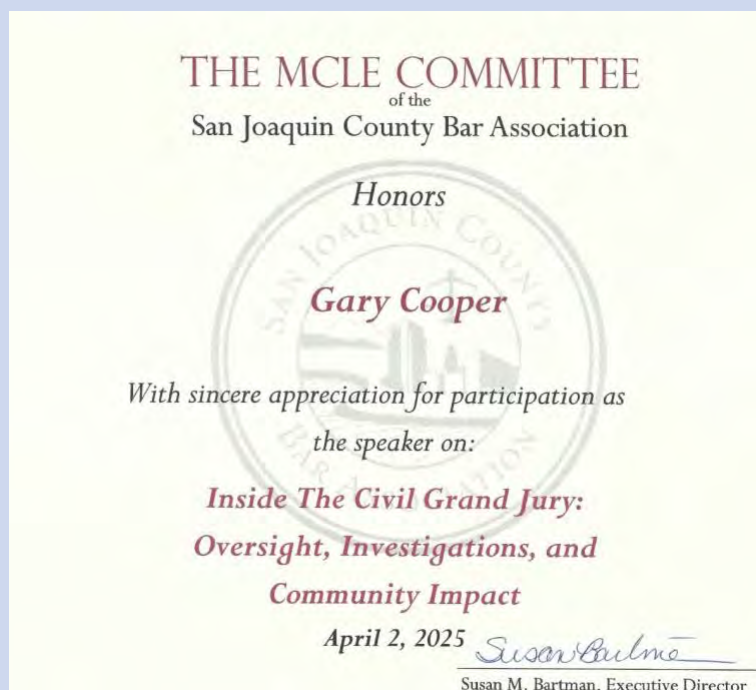
The spring gathering for chapter members, current civil grand jury members, county personnel, and past civil grand jurors was a success at the end of April; we benefited from excellent attendance and Monterey Bay spring weather. New faces were welcomed with anticipation that this will result in an uptick in chapter membership. We welcomed a new member and board member, CGJA trainer, Gary Hoffman.



The Monterey County Board of Supervisors honored the Civil Grand Jury declaring March Civil Grand Jury Recognition Month. Shown below are the foreman pro-tem of the current Civil Grand Jury and Tom Mastre, president of the Monterey Chapter. Also shown is the group of current and former Civil Grand Jurors with the supervisors, and the proclamation presented by Supervisor Kate Daniels. Like many chapters, the Monterey Chapter took part with pride in the receipt of the Civil Grand Jury Recognition Proclamation.



San Joaquin



new MEMBERS

Name	County
Peter Appert	Contra Costa
Deborah Wiener	Contra Costa
Curtis Darnell	El Dorado
Michael Galane	El Dorado
Richard Botzler	Humboldt
Bonnie Ross	Marin
Lorena Tournour	Mendocino
Thomas Motley	Monterey
Joyce Keller	Orange
Kim Horowitz	Santa Cruz
Stephen Morris	Santa Cruz
Marcus Partin	Shasta
Rachelle Raphael	Yolo

Recent Board Actions - click [here](#)

Keep us Posted

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

DEADLINE for submitting media for publication in the next issue.

July 28, 2025

Please [update](#) your contact information (if needed).

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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CGJA Trainers Attend Workshop

Our new trainers demonstrated why they were selected to join our training team by presenting part of a seminar topic to the group. They all did great!



The CGJA training team is now 38 members strong as we set out to cover 54 training venues this upcoming training season, which starts on June 11 in Orange County. Our trainers hail from 23 different counties, so we are well-prepared to cover the state, presenting CGJA's best practice information to the newly sworn grand juries throughout the state.



We are looking forward to representing CGJA and to another fun and successful year training California's civil grand juries.

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Ask the Trainer

Q. Are report recommendations ever shared during exit interviews?

A. No. The law limits the jury to only being able to “read and discuss the findings.” All other portions of the report must remain confidential until it is released. However, jurors should ask questions about possible recommendations when they are exploring solutions to problems they have identified during their investigation, and they can also do so during the exit interview. Ask “How would you recommend solving this problem?” and ask about the cost and time needed to implement it. This will help to ensure that your recommendation will be considered reasonable and will hopefully be implemented.

For additional information, the CGJA website has a template for conducting exit interviews at [Sample Documents - Civil Grand Jurors' Association](#). Scroll down to "Report Templates, Checklists, and Forms." Click on "Exit Interview Template."

Q. We're having trouble getting everyone together to vote approval on some of our reports. What is CGJA's position on voting during a remote meeting, by telephone, or by proxy?

A. All reports must be approved by a supermajority vote of the jury before they can be released. All the jurors should be present to hear a full discussion about a report before voting for or against its release. While meeting in person is preferred, jurors may participate remotely via teleconference using Zoom, Teams, or another conferencing platform, provided that the jury's procedure manual explicitly permits remote meetings. In remote meetings, all jurors must be able to hear all other participants and be able to participate in the discussion.

CGJA recommends against votes by proxy, in which a juror who plans to be absent gives their right to vote to another juror. While the Penal Code does not address proxy voting, CGJA believes all jurors who are voting on a matter must participate in the discussion and deliberations so they are fully informed about the matter before casting their vote. Because an absent juror would not be able to take part in deliberations leading up to the vote, a proxy vote should not be allowed.

Q. If we issue all our reports in a consolidated report at the end of the term instead of releasing them individually, is it okay to give the whole consolidated report to the Board of Supervisors two days before it is published, or do we have to deliver each individual report separately?

A. Individual reports should be delivered separately to each of their required respondents. Under the Penal Code, a grand jury must provide the affected agency with a copy of the grand jury report relating to that entity two working days prior to its public release. It is problematic to try to meet this requirement with consolidated reports because they ordinarily include several individual reports that list several respondents that vary from report to report. Confidentiality would be violated if a board or individual that is not a respondent to one of the individual reports within a consolidated report sees that report before it is publicly released.

On the other hand, if all individual reports within a consolidated report are addressed exclusively to a single required respondent like a county board of supervisors⁸, then giving that respondent the consolidated report two working days before its release would meet the Penal Code requirement.

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Annual Conference – October 26-27, 2025

Breakout Sessions



We listened to the feedback from last year's attendees and this year are returning several breakout sessions – in case you missed them – and some new topics you asked about. BUT – we are open to any new fresh ideas that YOU want to be addressed in our breakout sessions. Please send any ideas you may have to jjones.cgja@gmail.com no later than **June 9, 2025**, for consideration by the committee.

Auction! Auction! Auction!



Don't forget the ever-popular silent auction, this year with an added twist! Leading the silent auction is Gwen Usher who encourages attending chapters and associations to plan now to gather a silent auction item or basket with something that represents your county's bounty. The twist is that the last event of the evening will be a live auction of an item of special interest to most attendees with our own Lou Panetta as the auctioneer. You will not want to miss this.

The Best Part



And, of course, the usual fellowship that is fostered by meeting the new CGJA officers and directors, the recipients of well-earned awards, the latest Angelo Rolando recipient, and the gala dinner on Sunday evening, as well as fellow CGJA members from all over the state.

Registration

Registration information and complete program details will be available on the website in early July. We will send out a special announcement when registration opens.

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Angelo Rolando Service Award

We look to the members of CGJA to nominate members they consider worthy of receiving this prestigious award. Nominations will be accepted for consideration by the Angelo Rolando Service Award Committee until August 29, 2025. Nominations may be submitted online, by email or via postal mail.

In arriving at a decision to nominate someone you believe deserving, please consider that this award is for past service and not for anticipated service in future years. Some factors you may wish to consider:

- Substantive participation at both the state and county level in support of CGJA goals and objectives.
- Has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and is unusually effective in accomplishing projects.
- A nominee must be a current member of CGJA and there will be no multiple awards.
- The currently serving CGJA president is not eligible to receive this award in that year.
- Past recipients are not eligible for re-nomination.

You will need to have the following information available:

Name of Nominee
Nominee's City
Nominee's County
Nominated by
Nominator's Phone
Nominator's email
Supporting Information

Make the nomination [online](#). Or send me (Joann Landi) the above information by [email](#) or mail (178 South Palomar Drive, Palomar Park, CA 94062). If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, please contact me at joannelandi@aol.com or 650-365-4184.

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Southern California chapters/associations hold a regional online meeting

The 17 attendees were:

Los Angeles County: Carina Lister, Maureen Smith, Shirley Zaragoza, Don Gonzales, James (Jim) Bukowski, Leslie Flores, Norm Green and Sam Dodds. **Orange County:** Doug Gillen, Greg Tettermer and Lynn Bonas. **San Bernardino County:** John Bradley, Joanna Hamilton and Ron Zurek.

Ventura County: Lori Macdonald (CGJA trainer).

Other: Larry Herbst (CGJA Bylaws and Policies Review) and Sharon DeBenedetti (Sonoma County Chair).

Carina Lister (LA) reported a recent meeting with the supervising judges and court personnel with promises to give us an enhanced role. We have been meeting monthly in a restaurant near the civil grand jury office, hoping to attract current jurors. But the administration hitherto was not supportive of us. The court will not be using the CGJA training for the upcoming year.

Doug Gillen (OC) explained that the the Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County (GJAOC) is an association, not a formal CGJA chapter. Their court empowers the grand jury with both criminal indictments and civil investigations. The GJAOC has strong relations with the court and has existed for 50 + years. It uses the software program, Constant Contact, to inform people of the quarterly luncheons and newsletters. The quarterly meetings feature good speakers, such as the Orange County Clerk-Recorder.

Norm Green (LA): A barrier to recruiting jurors is that the per diem stipend has not been increased for a long time. Los Angeles juror pay will be increased from \$60 to \$80 next year. What is the juror pay for other counties? Answers: Orange County - \$50. San Bernardino County - \$60. Ventura County - \$25.

Maureen Smith (LA): Do other counties' chapters help with vetting and interviewing juror applicants?

Doug Gillen (OC): The GJAOC is not involved with any vetting or interviewing of applicants, per the Court's direction. John Bradley (SB): By contrast, some counties pay their CGJA chapters to interview juror applicants, thereby possibly saving some cost.

Lori Macdonald (Ventura): She gives PowerPoint presentations to the jurors in the petit jury assembly room. She has recruited in this way over 50 applicants for the grand jury.

The Southern California chapters propose to have a similar online meeting every year, including chapters or members from nearby counties.

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Board Actions

04-22-25

Approved acquiring 500 lapel pins at an unbudgeted additional expense not to exceed \$600.

Amended motion: Released the funds of three Memorial Funds (\$7,511 total), of which \$3,061 goes to the to the General Fund. In addition, use \$4,450 to increase Ron Miguel & Audrey Lynberg Training Scholarship Fund to \$13,000 for T-Bill funding.

05-27-25

Approved using \$4,200 in 2024 Annual Conference (AC) donations to offset fixed expenses and approve the 2025 AC registration fee of \$101.

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