



Grand Jurors' Journal

Vol. 24, No. 5, October 2023

Annual Conference Awaits Your Registration!



By the time you receive this *Journal*, there may be less than three weeks to sign up for the 2023 Annual Conference – this month in Walnut Creek on October 22-23, 2023.

The theme is **Building Bridges with Outreach and Technology**. With CGJA's focus on expanding the awareness of our Grand Jury system throughout California, this topic is sure to bring fresh new ideas that can be used by local chapters and associations to increase visibility of the grand jury system locally. Registration is as easy as clicking [here](#). **Read more.**

Congratulations to New and Continuing Directors



Karen Deeming



Juliana Olinka Jones



Marsha Caranci



Richard Rogers

South Region



Diane Lloyd

Central Region



Karen Jahr

North Region

See detailed [election results](#).

Registration is Now Open for CGJA Report Writing Workshops

CGJA provides workshops to help improve the quality, readability, and effectiveness of grand jury reports. These workshops provide hands-on practice in developing findings and recommendations as well as tips on writing persuasive and effective reports. Conducting exit interviews and the procedures for reviewing, approving, and releasing reports will also be covered. [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 responses as legal advice, and contact your local legal advisors to answer any question that might divulge confidential information.



Please 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.

Q. Grand juries are required to inquire into the condition of detention facilities within their counties. Does this include juvenile detention centers and are we required to issue a report about the jury's jail inspection?

Whenever questions about grand jury jurisdiction are subject to interpretation, CGJA defers to the grand jury's legal advisor. A recent Attorney General opinion on this topic leaves room for interpretation. We therefore recommend that each jury consult with their own legal advisor about whether they must inquire into a juvenile hall or camp in their county. [Read more.](#)

Q. Our jury is now receiving and reviewing required responses to reports issued by last year's jury. What are our options for managing and reporting on these responses?

A. Under Penal Code §933, governing boards and elected county officials must respond to grand jury reports within a specified time limit and with specific language. Your jury has several options, one of which is to do nothing because there is no legal requirement for a grand jury to do anything with responses to previous reports. [Read more.](#)

ATTENTION Current Grand Jurors

Are there any members of your grand jury who did not receive this newsletter, the *CGJA Journal*? We tried to send it to everyone who we trained this past year, but we may not have a correct email address for everyone. We try to always include helpful information for sitting grand jurors.

If anyone you know is not receiving it and would like to, they can register [here](#) as a free Introductory Member of CGJA and they will be added to our mailing list.

Please share this information with them. Thank you!

Best Grand Jury Report Award Nominations

This year we received two nominations for CGJA's Best Grand Jury Report award – from El Dorado and San Bernardino counties. They have been rated by the five-member Excellence in Reporting Subcommittee of the CGJA Awards Committee. The winners will be announced at the annual conference in Walnut Creek on October 22, 2023. [Read the summaries.](#)

News from Around the State

from Los Angeles County

The Final Disposition of a Civil Grand Jury Report

by Jim Bukowski, Los Angeles County Civil Grand Juror, 2022-23

Four of the 2022-2023 jurors attended the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on September 12 to observe the final acceptance of our report. The meeting began at 9:30 AM, with maybe 300 people attending in the large auditorium on Temple Street in downtown Los Angeles. This was a learning experience for us to see up close how county government really works! [Read more.](#)



A look at California's civil grand juries, the last of their kind in the nation

Written by Katy St. Clair, *Bay City News*
Published: 08 September 2023

There is a tenet of American democracy that has fallen by the wayside in most every state except for one: California. It's the convening of civil grand juries, which are bodies of ordinary citizens that investigate issues in public government and then compile a report and make recommendations. Yet few residents are aware of them and what they do. [Read full article.](#)

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 articles for publication in the next issue.

November 27, 2023

Change of address – Please notify the editor@cgja.org of any email address changes.

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](#).

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