

## **Other Grand Jury Activities**

Indictments

Community Relations

Citizens Complaints

## **Indictment and Investigative Hearings**

The 1995/96 Ventura County Grand Jury heard seventeen indictments and one investigative hearing presented by the District Attorney's office. Sixteen were returned as "true bills", one as "not true" and one was terminated in process.

One investigative hearing was conducted that did not result in an indictment.

The hearings consisted of the following charges:

Murder - 5

Attempted Murder - 2

Perjury - 1

Forgery, Forgery of a Seal, Unauthorized Practice of Law,  
Grand Theft and Not Sufficient Funds - 1

Pyramid Scheme - 3

Fraud - 2

Grand Theft, Failing to File Income Tax Returns, False Statements in the Sale of a Security, Money Laundering, Sale of a Security without Permission - 1 case (6 defendants)

Grand Theft - 1

Possession of a Firearm by a Felon - 1

The hearings required a total of 32 days to conduct.

## **Complaint Review Summary**

As of June 1, 1996 the 1995/96 Ventura County Grand Jury has received and processed more than 60 complaints from citizens of Ventura County.

The complaints were logged in and referred to the appropriate committee to determine necessary action. The various committees investigated approximately 53% of these complaints. Approximately 30% of the complaints were determined not to be within the purview of the Grand Jury and/or did not contain sufficient information. Approximately 10% were filed for information and the remaining 7% were received too late in the year to be adequately addressed. Letters of acknowledgment were sent to the citizens.

All pertinent information regarding these complaints is on file and available to the 1996/97 Grand Jury.

## **Community Relations Committee**

The Community Relations Committee was organized to develop and promote methods of increasing the public's awareness of the role of the 1995/96 Ventura County Grand Jury.

Grand Jurors have a tremendous amount of responsibility. The 1995/96 Grand Jury noticed very early on that the mere mention of the term "Grand Jury" intimidates some people. It was this Committee's desire to improve the Grand Jury's image by allowing the citizens of Ventura County to feel free to contact the Grand Jury at any time and not to be apprehensive when the Grand Jury contacts them.

Many residents of Ventura County accepted the Grand Jury's offer to provide speakers to explain the function of the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury appeared before the following:

**Pleasant Valley Lion's Club**

**Oxnard Kiwanis Club**

**Santa Paula Kiwanis Club**

**Santa Paula Soroptimist Club**

**Thousand Oaks Rotary Club**

**Conejo Valley Optimist Club**

**Simi Valley High School Career Day**

**Simi Valley Kiwanis Club**

**Camarillo Optimist Club**

**Zonta Women's' Club at CLU**

**Zonta Women's' Club of Thousand Oaks**

**Fillmore Rotary Club**

**Moorpark College**

**Moorpark Rotary Club**

**Port Hueneme Kiwanis Club**

**Thousand Oaks Chamber of Commerce Mega-Mixer**

**East County Sheriff's Open House announcing a new Mental Health Crisis Team**

**Grand Juror conferences held in Sacramento and North Hollywood**

In order to achieve the goal of increasing public awareness of the role of the Grand Jury, this Committee did the following:

- Issued a news release in October of 1995 announcing an Open House that would allow County staff and citizens access to an area of the Hall of Justice that is normally restricted - The Grand Jury Chambers. The Grand Jury met with many people and answered all questions regarding how to become a Grand Juror and the duties that pertain to that position.

- Issued news releases and wrote letters to the editors of various newspapers explaining the proper way to contact the Grand Jury.
- Appeared on a local radio station to discuss the Grand Jury's Interim Final Report and other functions of the Grand Jury.
- Appeared before the Board of Supervisors to discuss budgetary concerns and to discuss the response to the Interim Final Report.
- Sent letters to local schools and clubs and organizations asking if they were interested in hearing a presentation about the functions of the Grand Jury.