

Ventura County Grand Jury



**Final Report
1996-97**

Ventura County Grand Jury

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The Ventura County Grand Jury is an independent investigative body whose primary function is investigating and reporting on all governmental bodies within the county. Its powers and duties also include bringing indictments for criminal or public offenses.

The Grand Jury is directed to prepare and issue a final report in accordance with Penal Code 933 and must include suggested means for resolution of problems identified under Penal Code 916. The Grand Jury relies on the power of persuasion to effect change.

county of ventura

Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-2873

July 1, 1997

The Honorable Robert C. Bradley
Presiding Judge
Ventura County Superior Court
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Dear Judge Bradley:

Being Foreman of the 1996/97 Ventura County Grand Jury was sometimes difficult, never dull, always challenging, and above all satisfying.

The "Oath of Grand Jurors" which we took in this chamber just one year ago, aptly describes the concept and authority of the Grand Jury. I quote from the California Penal Code:

"I do solemnly swear (affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the State of California, and all laws made pursuant to and in conformity therewith, will diligently inquire into and true presentment make, of all public offenses against the people of this state, committed or triable within this county of which the Grand Jury shall have or can obtain legal evidence."

This charge to newly sworn Grand Jurors places an awesome responsibility upon each citizen selected to serve a one-year term.

Like its predecessors, the 1996/97 Ventura County Grand Jury has a distinct character, because of its diversity, independence, and intellect. This jury is truly a cross section of local residents, reflected in the diverse backgrounds, mix of ethnicity and gender.

Diversity has been a source of strength, and has stimulated much debate as we have addressed complex and controversial issues. Disagreements occurred and discussion sometimes became heated, but hard work and belief in the Grand Jury system was the linchpin that held the 1996/97 Ventura County Grand Jury together. The Final Report reflects the best efforts of this unique assemblage of dedicated people.

We began our term with enthusiasm, and a deep wish that our body could make a meaningful contribution to county government. We carried this wish into the use of our investigative powers and the use of responses from the governing bodies of Ventura County. The Final Report that we now present to you, to the public agencies covered in the report, and to the residents of Ventura County, honestly reflects the dedication given to the service for which we were called. We hope the findings and recommendations resulting from our yearlong effort are helpful to those agencies which were the subject of inquiry. Also, that the findings may be worthy of consideration by other county departments and the multitude of local agencies in Ventura County.

I want to take this occasion to thank my fellow jurors who faced situations beyond the initial charge, and gave back more than was expected of them. To the 18 individuals who worked doing research, and reading volumes of material to prepare for and conduct inquiries, with such diligence and energy, my deepest appreciation.

I also want to thank you, Judge Bradley, our chief advisor, for the advice and guidance you gave this panel the past twelve months. I am indebted to you for this memorable year of service. I would also like to acknowledge the support and wisdom imparted by our other advisors, District Attorney Michael Bradbury, and his staff, and County Counsel James McBride. Their legal interpretations, both criminal and civil were invaluable to us.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge all elected and appointed officials of the county and their helpful personnel. Civil oversight consumed an inordinate amount of this jury's time, causing significant demands on busy public servants. Departments and agencies spent valuable time compiling data and meeting with Grand Jury teams or the full jury. We thank them for their unwavering cooperation, and belief in the Grand Jury System. We wish to assure them, and our fellow county residents, that we believe Ventura County is in good hands.

The other 18 members of the 1996/97 Ventura County Grand Jury join me in wishing all of you here at the Government Center continued success and God Speed in maintaining the health, vitality, and safety of this County.



George J. Billinger, Foreman

1996/97 Ventura County Grand Jury



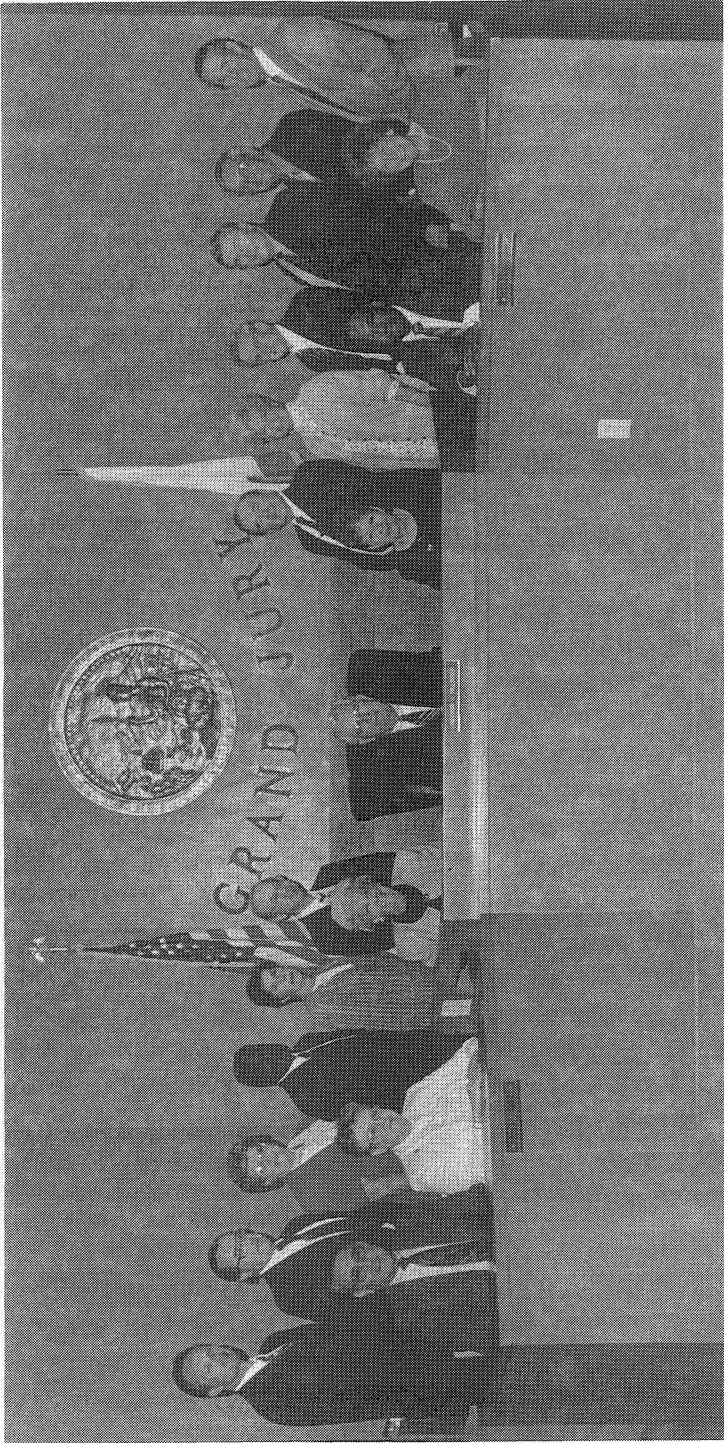
Honorable Robert C. Bradley

**Presiding Judge
Ventura County Superior Court**

1996/1997 Ventura Grand Jury

Diane L. Anderson	Port Hueneme	District 2
Ronald Andrews	Simi Valley	District 4
George Billinger Foreperson	Ventura	District 1
Randy Bowin	Oxnard	District 5
Antonio Caballero	Camarillo	District 3
Nadine DeMoss Recording Secretary	Oxnard	District 5
Dorothy Engel Foreperson Pro Tem Parliamentarian	Thousand Oaks	District 2
Roger Fanter	Simi Valley	District 4
Deshay Ford Sergeant-at-Arms	Oxnard	District 5
Albert Ginn Treasurer	Camarillo	District 3
Harvey Harper	Camarillo	District 3
Jessica Harris Librarian	Ventura	District 1
Mervyn Heal	Simi Valley	District 4
Dorothy Intlekofer Corresponding Secretary	Newbury Park	District 2
Quenton Koon	Simi Valley	District 4
Betty Leisenring	Simi Valley	District 4
Edward Millan Indictment Secretary	Camarillo	District 3
John Murray	Simi Valley	District 4
Florence Young	Oxnard	District 5
Also Served		
David Ferris	Thousand Oaks	District 2

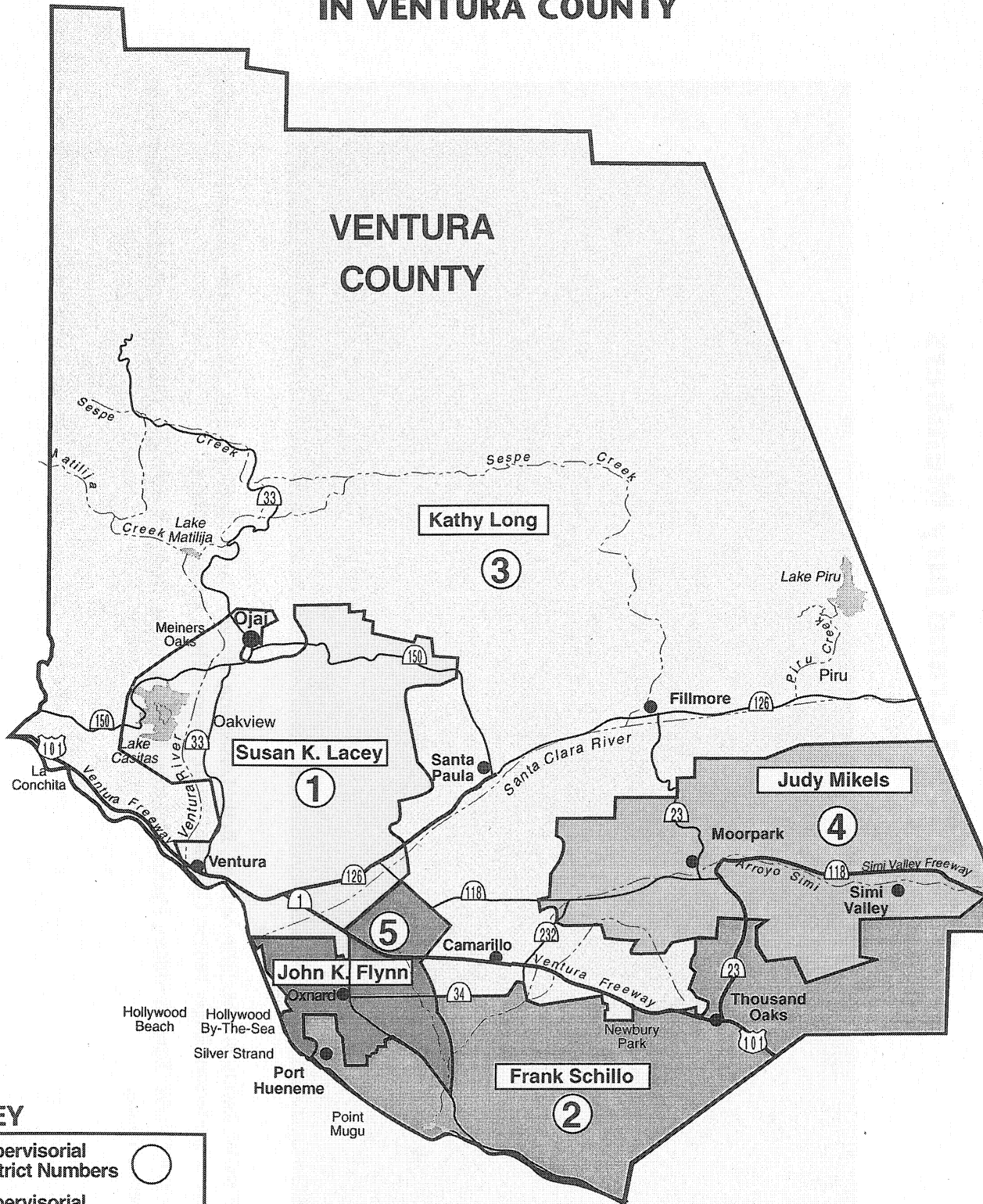
1996/1997 Grand Jury Members



TOP ROW: Randy Bowin, John Murray, Betty Leisenring, Harvey Harper, Jessica Harris, Albert Ginn, Antonio Caballero, Diane L. Anderson, Roger Fanter, Quenton Koon, Mervyn Heal, Ronald Andres

BOTTOM ROW: Edward Millan, Nadine DeMoss, Dorothy Engel, George J. Billinger, Dorothy Intelkofer, Deshay Ford, Florence Young

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS IN VENTURA COUNTY



KEY

Supervisorial District Numbers	○
Supervisorial District Boundaries*	—
City Location	●

*Supervisorial Districts effective 1/30/92

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