

Other Grand Jury Activities



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The committee is charged with increasing general knowledge about the duties and responsibilities of the Grand Jury, with a goal of broadening citizen participation in this body.

With that goal in mind, two open houses were held early in our term. Responding to our invitation, over 100 guests visited in the Grand Jury chambers, including county residents department and agency heads and representatives of the media.

Because of a general consensus that Ventura County citizens are unaware of Grand Jury activities, the committee initiated a random poll of county residents. The poll was designed to determine the extent of knowledge among the general populace regarding the Grand Jury. (Results of the poll were published through local newspapers).

A Speakers Bureau was established to address organizations in Ventura County. Speakers explained functions of the Grand Jury and encouraged the public to seek service on the panel. It was determined that only through public understanding can we maximize the effectiveness of Ventura County's Grand Jury system.

### Committee Members

Antonio M. Caballero, Chair

Edith Everett

Harold Brooks

Eldon Bentley

Pablo Vargas

## **COMPLAINT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

This committee receives and acts on all citizen complaints. Complaints must be in written form, signed, dated and include a valid return address and telephone number. Without this information, a complaint cannot be processed.

All complaints are reviewed and referred to the appropriate committee for action when necessary. Some complaints only require a letter of acknowledgment and explanation of why the complaint cannot be addressed by the Grand Jury. Others may evolve into a full investigation.

The 1997/98 Grand Jury received 86 complaints, 9 of these resulted in Final Reports.

### **Committee Members**

Ed Pizzi, Chair

Norbert Rehaut, Co-Chair

Bernard Lavin, Recording Secretary

Joe Hernandez

Edward Millan

Pablo Vargas

Marsha Weber

## **EDITORIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Editorial Review Committee is responsible for producing the Final Report. Final editing of all reports is the responsibility of this committee.

The details of the Final Report are many and varied, including print style, format, colors, graphics and content. Many hours were spent gathering the specific information needed for the Final Report and bringing this information to the committee for approval. A very detailed time schedule, prepared by the committee, kept us busy until the day of publication.

Our goal was to publish a Final Report of which the 1997/1998 Ventura County Grand Jury can be proud.

### **Committee Members**

Garda Falt, Chair

Ollie Chenevert, Co-Chair

Lillian Trevisan, Recording Secretary

Edith Everett

Edward Millan

Marsha Weber

## **GRAND JURY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Grand Jury Review Committee is responsible for updating the *Ventura County Grand Jury Manual*, for assisting Jury Services with orientation of the incoming Grand Jury and for communicating with Grand Juries of other counties. The 1997-98 committee undertook projects consistent with these duties and also explored the possibility of republishing the Grand Jury brochure.

### **PROJECTS COMPLETED**

- Index
- Flow Charts
- Corrections to the text

### **Committee Members**

Bobbie Diehl, Chair

Edmund Pizzi, Co-Chair

Robert Stahl, Recording Secretary

Ollie Chenevert

Diane Evans

## INDICTMENT/INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

The 1997-1998 Grand Jury cooperated with the District Attorney's office on indictment and investigative proceedings. As of June 1, 1998, the following data indicates the time allocated by the grand jury for such proceedings:

<b>Total Number of Indictments</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Number of Investigative Proceedings</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Number of Days Allocated to Indictments and Investigations</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>Subject Matter of Indictments:</b>	
Workmen's' Compensation Insurance Fraud .....	2
Sale of Controlled Substance .....	1
Spousal Abuse .....	1
Murder .....	2
Eavesdropping - Interception of a Cordless Telephone Communication .....	1
<b>Subject Matter of Investigative Proceedings:</b>	
Murder .....	4