

Other Grand Jury Activities

Community Relations Committee

The Community Relations Committee is responsible for informing the citizens of the county about the duties and responsibilities of the Grand Jury. In doing so the committee strives to broaden citizen participation in the Grand Jury Process.

In discharging this responsibility, the Committee sponsored two major activities.

Early in the term, the Committee conducted an open house in the Grand Jury chambers. Approximately 100 civic leaders, members of the press and private citizens attended. All 19 Grand Jurors were present to meet the public and to answer questions.

The Committee also sponsored a speaker's bureau. Members made presentations to 27 fraternal and civic organizations, two radio programs, two television programs, and one high school class. The presentations covered statutory responsibilities of the Grand Jury, how the Grand jury conducts its business and how Grand Jurors are selected.

Committee Members

Charles Tennant, Chair
Janice Kuzemko
Jerry Lewi
Jan Small
Magnus Studer

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 require only a letter of acknowledgement and explanation of why the complaint cannot be addressed by the Grand Jury. Others may evolve into a full investigation.

The, 1998-1999 Grand Jury received 32 complaints, 4 of which resulted in Final Reports.

Committee Members

Larry Lowenberg, Chair

Barbara Christiansen, Co-Chair

Jan Small, Recording Secretary

Ira Grooms

Hector Nava, Sr.

Grand Jury Review Committee

The Grand Jury Review Committee reviews and updates the Ventura County Grand Jury Manual; assists Jury Services with the Orientation of the incoming Grand Jury; communicates with Grand Juries of other counties; maintains an awareness of legislation affecting Grand Juries; develops and updates procedures for tracking report responses.

During the 1998-1999 fiscal year, the Grand Jury Review Committee also accomplished the following:

- Attended the California Grand Jury Association Conference in San Diego, September 11 - 13, 1998, and obtained information on the Grand Jury's working relationship with the County Counsel and the District Attorney.
- Coordinated with CAO personnel procedures for tracking and logging responses to Grand Jury reports.
- Reviewed a web page being established by Jury Services
- Issued an interim report on responses to the previous year's report (see Appendix II).

Committee Members

Jerry Lewi, Chair and Recorder

Ira Grooms, Co-Chair

Dave Jacobson

Mike Lastrico

Indictment/Investigation Summary

One of the responsibilities of the Grand Jury is to hear requests from the District Attorney for indictments or to conduct investigative hearings leading to possible indictments. Contrary to popular belief this is not the main task of a grand jury in the State of California, although it can vary significantly from year to year.

Following is a summary of the indictment activity for the 1998-1999 Ventura County Grand Jury as of June 16, 1999.

Number of indictments	5
Number of investigative proceedings	3
Number of days allocated to indictments and investigations	45
Percent of working days devoted to indictments and investigations	20
Subject matter of Indictments	
Murder	2
Conspiracy	4
Subject matter of Investigations	
Murder	1
Drug dealing	2