

# VENTURA COUNTY GRAND JURY



## Final Report 1999-2000

**T**he 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 include bringing indictments for criminal or public offenses and being responsive to citizens' complaints.

The Grand Jury is directed to prepare and issue a final report in accordance with Penal Code Section 933 and must include suggested means for resolution of problems identified under Penal Code Section 916.

# county of ventura

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

July 1, 2000

Honorable Charles W. Campbell, Presiding Judge  
Ventura County Superior Court  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

Honorable Judge Campbell,

I am pleased to present to you the final report of the 1999/2000 Grand Jury.

This document represents the collective effort of each and every one of the nineteen members of the Grand Jury panel. The panel divided into committees and sub-committees, spent many hours investigating each of the issues noted and has to the best of its ability presented a fair and unbiased view of the subjects discussed.

I feel that the county has been well served by this panel and I thank the court for giving me the opportunity to serve as its foreman.

Respectfully,



Marvin J. Reeber, Foreman

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## Legal requirements for responses

### **Section 933.05 - Response to Finding**

(a) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
- (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.

(b) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
- (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.
- (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
- (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor.

(c) However, if a finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the board of supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the board of supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department.

(d) A grand jury may request a subject person or entity to come before the grand jury for the purpose of reading and discussing the findings of the grand jury report that relates to that person or entity in order to verify the accuracy of the findings prior to their release.

(e) During an investigation, the grand jury shall meet with the subject of that investigation regarding the investigation, unless the court, either on its own determination or upon request of the foreperson of the grand jury, determines that such a meeting would be detrimental.

(f) A grand jury shall provide to the affected agency a copy of the portion of the grand jury report relating to that person or entity two working days prior to its public release and after the approval of the presiding judge. No officer, agency, department, or governing body of a public agency shall disclose any contents of the report prior to the public release of the final report.



**CHARLES W. CAMPBELL**  
**Presiding Judge of the Superior Court**  
**January 1, 1998 - December 31, 2000**

## Foreman's Statement

I feel very privileged to have been allowed to serve as the foreman of the 1999/2000 Grand Jury. I was honored by this appointment and I hope that my colleagues, the members of the court and the other citizens of the county feel that I have served them well.

During the past year, our county has been faced with many challenges. The grand jury, as it should, has continued to stay above the fray and look at all issues in a fair and unbiased manner.

If one were to study only the headlines and editorials of the past year, one would be led to believe that our county is in crisis. I believe that a careful analysis of all of the facts would lead one to a contrary belief. That is not to say that improvements could and should not be made. Changes and improvements should be made; however, they should be made in a thoughtful and insightful manner and not in a crisis mode.

It appears to me that there has been a great deal of confusion as to the source of the county's financial difficulties. I am sure that a good case can be made for all sides. There have been many accusations, condemnations and recriminations. There is surely enough blame to go around.

Instead of attempting to place blame, we should acknowledge that by and large our government is populated by very hardworking, dedicated, intelligent and honest individuals. It is because of these people, we have a county of which to be proud. Ours is a county government that, by and large, serves its citizens very well indeed and is certainly the envy of many in this nation.

The purpose of this statement is not to place blame on any person or group of people but rather to ask, on behalf of the citizens of this county, that no plan of such great magnitude be instituted in the future without a clear course of action. Such action might include a table of organization, a well thought out proposed budget, a detailed study of requirements for physical facilities and in

addition, there should be a complete study of the moral, ethical and legal ramifications of any such plan. Most importantly, there must be a greater consensus among our Supervisors.

In closing, let me state that there are a few areas in our county government that should be corrected. Some of these areas are discussed in our final report. These are areas in which dedicated people should be trained and supervised properly. More efficient and accurate systems should be put in place and steps should be taken to ensure that these procedures are followed. Let us not suffer from a “Chicken Little” syndrome. The sky is not falling! We do not, in fact, have a county in crises, but, rather, we have an outstanding county and a wonderful place to live that we should all strive to make even better.

## 1999 - 2000 Ventura County Grand Jury

<b>Leslie G. Anderson</b>	Ventura	District 1
<b>Larry M. Banke</b> Librarian	Camarillo	District 3
<b>Dorothy A. Blake</b> Corresponding Secretary	Port Hueneme	District 2
<b>Antonio M. Caballero</b>	Camarillo	District 3
<b>Frank D. Cardamone</b>	Thousand Oaks	District 2
<b>Robert H. Cruickshank</b>	Thousand Oaks	District 2
<b>Sidonna I. Kuhn</b>	Thousand Oaks	District 2
<b>Linda M. LaSalle</b> Recording Secretary	Camarillo	District 3
<b>Bernard Lavin</b>	Thousand Oaks	District 2
<b>Charles M. Malone</b>	Thousand Oaks	District 2
<b>Hector Nava, Sr.</b> Treasurer	El Rio	District 5
<b>Richard L. Parker</b>	Simi Valley	District 4
<b>Sharon Patterson</b>	Ojai	District 1
<b>Marvin J. Reeber</b> Foreman	Oxnard	District 5
<b>William Sandstrom</b>	Ventura	District 1
<b>Ronald J. Sparks</b>	Simi Valley	District 4
<b>William J. Tewksbury</b> Indictment Secretary	Simi Valley	District 4
<b>Pablo G. Vargas</b> Sergeant-at-Arms	Oxnard	District 5
<b>Barry L. Wolin</b> Foreman <i>Pro Tem</i> Parliamentarian	Oxnard	District 5





Back Row left to right: Ronald J. Sparks, William J. Tewksbury, William Sandstrom, Rickard Parker, Leslie G. Anderson, Sharon Patterson, Antonio M. Caballero, Bernard Lavin, Sidonna I. Kuhn, Pablo G. Vargas, Frank D. Cardamone, Robert H. Cruickshank, Larry M. Banke, Charles M. Malone  
Seated left to right: Hector Nava, Sr, Dorothy Blake, Marvin J. Reeber, Linda M. LaSalle, Barry Wolin

## 1999-2000 Ventura County Grand Jury External Committees

### **Audit, Finance And County Administration**

Has oversight responsibility for functions involving County elected officials and departments.

Larry Banke	Sharon Patterson, Chair
Frank Cardamone, Chair Pro-Tem	William Sandstrom
Bernard Lavin, Secretary	

### **Cities And Joint Powers**

Has oversight responsibility for functions regarding the ten cities within Ventura County.

Leslie Anderson, Chair & Secretary	Richard Parker
Dorothy Blake	William Tewksbury, Chair
Anthony Caballero	Pablo Vargas
Robert Cruickshank	Barry Wolin
Charles Malone	

### **County Services And Special Districts**

Has oversight responsibility for functions regarding special districts, the agencies that support many of the special districts, and county services.

Leslie Anderson, Chair Pro Tem	Richard Parker
Larry Banke	William Sandstrom, Chair
Dorothy Blake	Ronald Sparks
Linda LaSalle	Pablo Vargas
Charles Malone	Barry Wolin

### **Health, Education And Welfare**

Has oversight responsibility for County schools, health care agencies, human services and libraries.

Larry Banke	Bernard Lavin
Frank Cardamone	Charles Malone, Secretary
Sidonna Kuhn	Hector Nava, Sr.
Linda LaSalle, Chair Pro Tem	Ronald Sparks, Chair

### **Law, Justice And Public Safety**

Has oversight responsibility for detention facilities, law enforcement agencies, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Probation Department, Medical Examiner-Coroner and Fire Protection District.

Anthony Caballero	Sharon Patterson
Frank Cardamone	William Sandstrom
Robert Cruickshank	Ronald Sparks, Secretary
Sidonna Kuhn	William Tewksbury, Chair Pro Tem
Bernard Lavin, Chair	Pablo Vargas
Hector Nava, Sr	

## 1999-2000 Ventura County Grand Jury Internal Committees

### Complaint Review Committee

Has responsibility to review, recommend action, and acknowledge citizens' complaints. The 1999-2000 Grand Jury received and acted on 28 complaints.

Leslie Anderson, Chair <i>Pro Tem</i>	Richard Parker
Dorothy Blake, Secretary	William Sandstrom
Robert Cruickshank	Pablo Vargas
Sidonna Kuhn	Barry Wolin
Hector Nava, Sr., Chair	

### Editorial Review Committee

Has responsibility to edit Grand Jury reports and to shepherd the Grand Jury Final Report through the publication process.

Linda LaSalle	William Sandstrom
Charles Malone, Chair	Ronald Sparks, Chair <i>Pro Tem</i>
Sharon Patterson, Secretary	Barry Wolin

### Grand Jury Review Committee

Has responsibility to review and update *The Grand Jury Manual*, to plan the orientation of the incoming Grand Jury, and to track responses to the prior year's report.

Dorothy Blake, Chair <i>Pro Tem</i>	Ronald Sparks
Sharon Patterson	Barry Wolin, Chair
William Sandstrom	

### Computer System Support

Has responsibility to serve as the Grand Jury's in-house technical expert. This year one individual had full responsibility.

Charles Malone, Chair

### Community Relations Committee

Has responsibility to inform County residents about the Grand Jury through publicity and the Grand Jury Speakers' Bureau

Linda LaSalle, Chair <i>Pro Tem</i>	Pablo Vargas
William Tewksbury, Chair	

### Social Committee

Has responsibility to organize refreshments and social gatherings of the Grand Jury and to arrange a luncheon on July 1 for the incoming Grand Jury

Anthony Caballero, Chair	Sidonna Kuhn
Frank Cardamone	Pablo Vargas, Chair <i>Pro Tem</i>

## Indictment & Investigation Summary

One of the Grand Jury’s responsibilities involves responding to the District Attorney’s request to hear indictments or to conduct investigative hearings which can lead to indictments. The amount of time spent hearing indictments and investigations varies from one grand jury to another and can vary significantly from one year to another.

The following brief summary details the indictment and investigative hearing activity of the 1999 - 2000 Grand Jury.

Number of indictments .....	7
Number of investigations .....	5
Number of days allocated to above hearings .....	35

# **SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS IN VENTURA COUNTY**