

# THE NEWSLETTER

GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 15, No. 3

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

*Nov. 2001*  
~~August, 2001~~

## YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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**JOIN US FOR LUNCH**  
**Thursday, Dec. 6**  
**at Phoenix Club**  
**1340 So Sanderson Ave, Anaheim**

**Leonard Kranser**

**"The Other Options re:  
El Toro Commercial Airport"**

## SEPTEMBER SPEAKER - BARRY NEWMAN

Attorney Barry Newman is a director of the California Grand Jurors Association, and is a former member of the San Diego Grand Jury. Newman told the GJAOC September luncheon audience of the controversial Kelso Report, currently under consideration by the California legislature, which would make some significant changes in the state's grand jury system. Among those changes:

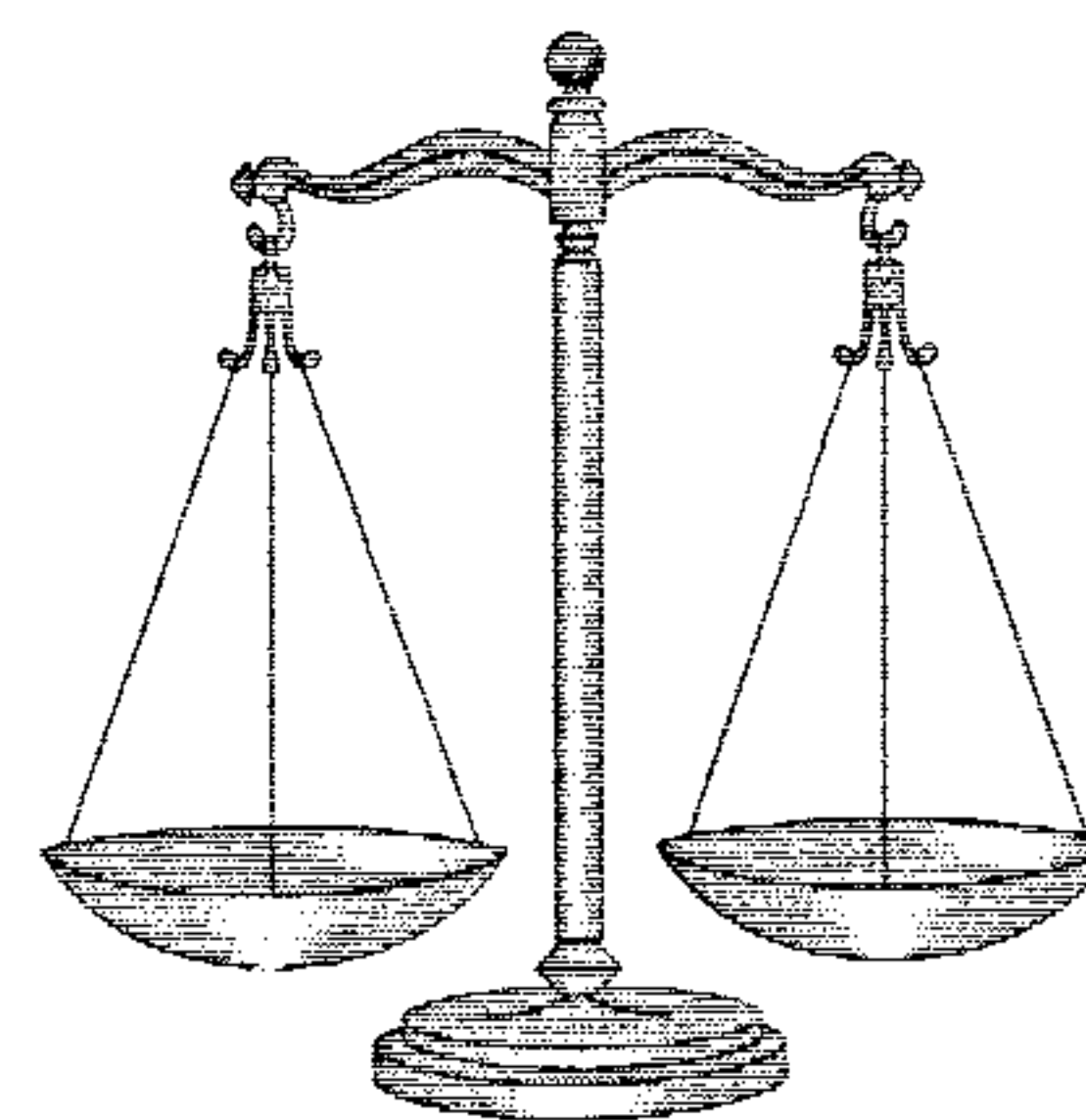
- Take away the power to indict from the traditional ("Blue Ribbon") grand juries and provide for separate grand juries appointed from the petit jury pool to consider criminal indictments.
- Permit witnesses to have counsel during proceedings in grand jury chambers, if the investigation might result in an indictment.
- Provide for staggered terms for jury members.
- Establish a statewide training program for new panel members.

Newman pointed out several problems with these and other proposals.

*please turn to page 2*

## DECEMBER SPEAKER - LEONARD KRANSER

Our speaker at the December 6 luncheon meeting will be Leonard Kranser, a retired businessman who now spends much of his time actively promoting an alternative use of the El Toro Marine base. Kranser is chairman of the El Toro Coalition, and website editor for [www/eltoroairport.org](http://www/eltoroairport.org). We have heard from Jan Mittermeier, erstwhile county CEO, and general William Bloomer, executive director of the O.C. Regional Airport Authority, both of whom strongly favor the development of an airport at the former Marine Corps Air Station. We will now have exposure to the other side of this most controversial issue. Make plans to join us.





*from p. 1*

Kelso, a professor at the McGeorge Law School, at University of the Pacific, submitted his proposed revisions having little familiarity with actual grand jury service. Newman said some proposals had merit but needed realistic fine tuning by people with experience in the trenches.

The training provision, in particular, came in for special attention by our speaker. Notwithstanding the difficulties in reconciling the widely differing needs of small and large California counties, it seemed quite self-serving, he said, for a law school professor to propose a rather ambitious (\$300,000 - \$500,000) "pilot project" presumably to be conducted by University of the Pacific.

### **HIP HIP HOORAY FOR SUPER GJAOC CONFERENCE**

Once again, GJAOC is seen as a leader in California. This editor admits there may be some prejudice, but still maintains that Orange County knows how to get the job done well.

Jodie Harrod, Rose Moreno, Jim Nolan, Carol Morales and Joe Quiros did an outstanding job of arranging a first-rate conference in Costa Mesa - not once, but twice as many of you already know.

*September 11th* blew the original California conference date out of the water. Travel plans throughout the state were aborted, a new date was

chosen, speakers reappointed, attendees and hotel schedules were changed.

In their usual "can do" fashion, Jodie and her team pulled off a well attended, informative annual conference of CGJA. They were complimented and thanked over and over for the venues, the programs, the speakers, having a court reporter record the meetings, the food selections, etc.

The committee put together a notebook covering all aspects of the conference. This was presented to the President of the Marin County Grand Jurors Association for his use in planning next year's conference. The consensus of the CGJA Board members who saw the notebook, was that most of his work had been done for him by Harrod's hard working group.

### **A WORD OF CAUTION**

The Board of Directors has been advised that certain individuals have been contacting members of the Orange County government and members of the Superior Court and representing themselves as speaking for the Grand Jurors Association of Orange County. Though sometimes this is true, many times these speakers are actually using our Association as a cover for the promotion of their own agenda.

At the November Board meeting the Board agreed, unanimously, that the Grand Jurors Association of Orange County would be represented by at least two members at business meetings that have prior board approval. This is consistent with the policy adopted by the Grand Jury concerning interviews and will insure that the Association positions are not inadvertently misrepresented.

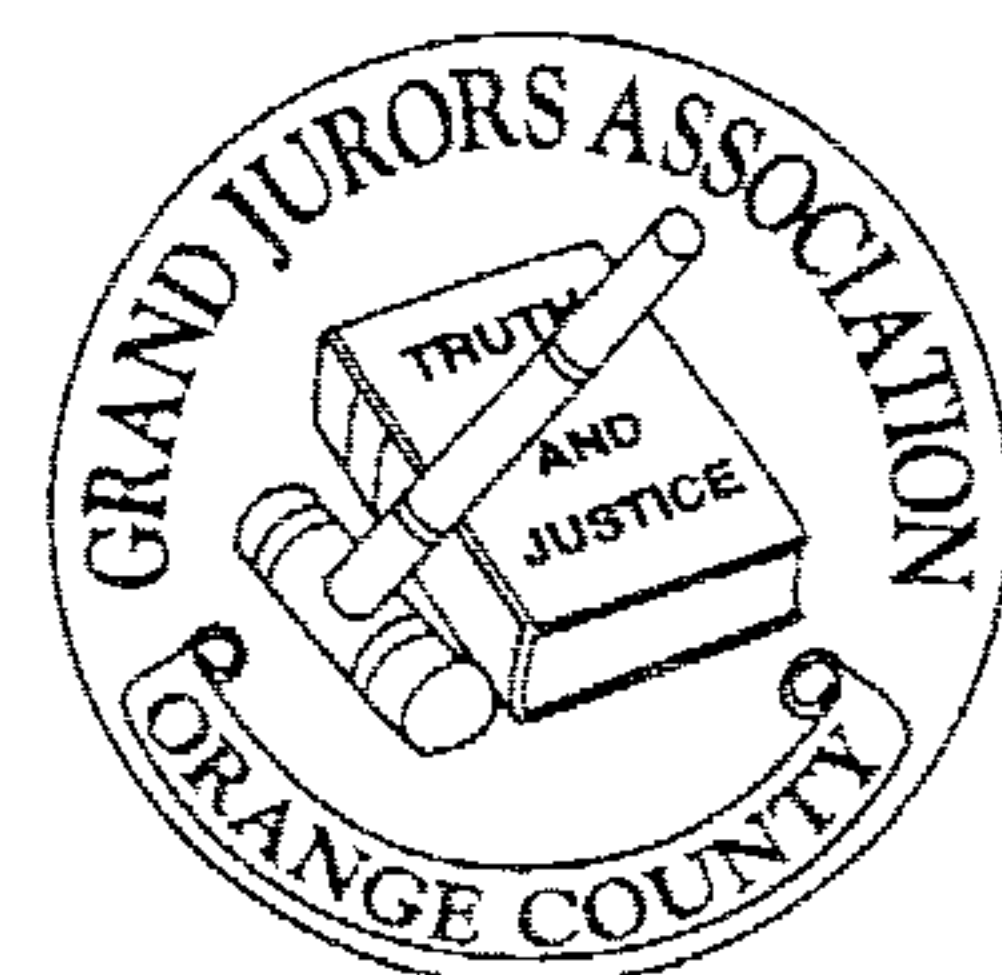
### **KELSO REPORT**

The saga continues ...

Partly due to the delay of the California conference caused by 9/11, the deadline for comment to the Kelso report was continued to December 2001. Our Orange County Association has made comments to the study as reported in our last newsletter.

The State association will now be in a more solid position, following their conference, to give input gathered from statewide opinions.

Members of our board will be making contact with state legislators in the near future to raise awareness BEFORE legislation is written.





# NOTES & MISCELLANY

## TREASURERS REPORT

As of October 31, 2001  
Checking account balance:  
\$ 7,071.49  
Custom Time Deposit:  
\$3,244.76  
Total Reserves:  
\$10,316.25  
Joe Quiros, Treasurer

## RECOGNIZING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION

To retiring board member Jodie Harrod go many thank yous and sincere appreciation for her dedicated service to GJAOC.

Jodie served on the 1987/88 and 1988/89 panels and came onto the Board in 1995 when the association enacted term limits of 3 terms

of 2 years each.

Ms. Harrod has faithfully served for six continuous years since 1996. Our bylaws require her to now step down for one year before becoming eligible for reelection in 2002.

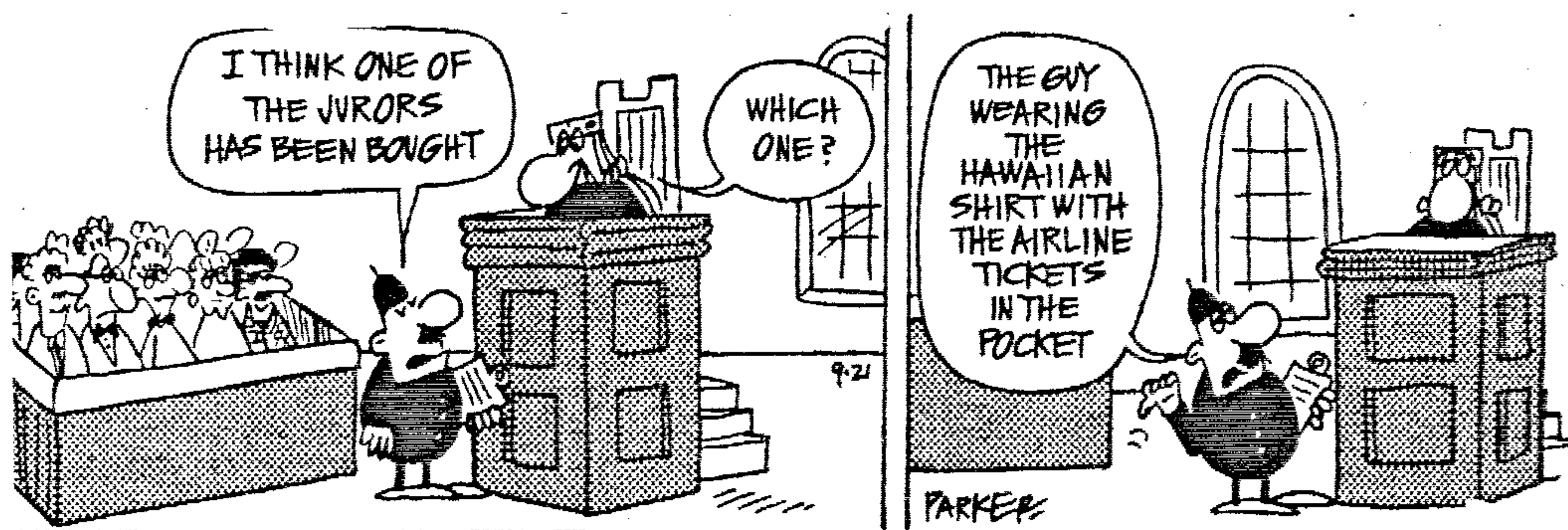
Jodie has also been a member of the Board of the California Grand Jurors Association for many years. She was Chair of the Arrangement Committee for the conference in San Diego as well as this year's conference in Costa Mesa. Jodie has been appointed by our Board of Directors as liaison to the CGJA for the year 2002.

## MEMBERSHIP

You will very soon receive a reminder that it is time to pay dues for the year 2002.

We are urging you to rejoin the Association so we can speak with a "loud voice" on areas affecting the grand jury system in the State of California. You may note the word "rejoin" above. Only members in good standing receive the Newsletters.

Questions have been raised concerning whether the civil grand jury concept is archaic. Only California and one other state still have civil grand juries. Essentially the other forty eight states have no way for the public to "look over the shoulder" of elected and appointed officials. Considering what we see in the media concerning the actions of our officials, it is not surprising that the legislature would be eager to remove, or at least cripple, the public's eyes and ears.



## **HOSTING THE 20TH ANNUAL CGJA CONFERENCE**

It's over! The 20th Annual CGJA Conference which the Grand Jurors Association of Orange County hosted was very well received by the conference participants. The postponement of the conference from September to November generated a whole new set of tasks before the event began. In spite of the postponement and all the movement from level to level and from room to room and in speaker changes, the participants felt that the conference was well worth attending. Most felt that the hotel and meals were great, the speakers worth hearing, and the meetings informative. The participants from twenty-two California counties and Sedona, Arizona enjoyed the social interaction.

The success of the conference depended on the freely and cheerfully given help by the following Orange County association members:

Joe Quiros (programs), Carol Morales (packets), Jim Nolan (conference recording), and Sheldon Singer (coupons). John Baird, Bob Geiss, Cheryl Brothers, Vern Martin, Karen Evarts, Royal Lord and Dianne Hoffman helped with preparations before and during registration at the conference.

Our very sincerest thanks to the conference workers and to the members who attended the conference.

*- Jodie Harrod and Rose Moreno*

P. S. For those who are interested, the registration fee for the conference goes toward the following expenses:

- Cost of printing forms, letters, signs,  
programs, information sheets
- Postage
- Rental of meeting rooms
- Coffee, tea, lemonade during meetings
- Microphone use
- Recording expenses
- Speaker expenses

The fees do not fully cover costs so donations are solicited. Other costs are absorbed by members coordinating the conference.

Meals at such events must be reserved several days in advance. Reserved meals must be paid for whether consumed or not. Refunds are not possible in such cases.