

# THE NEWSLETTER

GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 16, No. 1

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

February, 2002

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**JOIN US FOR LUNCH**  
**Thursday, March 7**  
**at Phoenix Club**  
**1340 So Sanderson Ave, Anaheim**

**Webster Guillory**  
**O.C. Assessor**

**"Tax Initiatives and Equal  
Protection of Rights"**

## DECEMBER SPEAKER - LEONARD KRANSER

Mr. Kranser is a leading opponent of a commercial airport at the former El Toro Marine base. The retired executive is host of a web site, [www.eltoroairport.org](http://www.eltoroairport.org), and has long acted as spokesman for his cause. Using charts to illustrate his argument, Kranser offered the following points:

- The demand for a new airport will be elsewhere. Orange County has nearly reached its growth limit.
- El Toro is a poor location for a regional airport.
- Existing airports can serve the demand.
- Non-aviation use is the will of the people.
- The alternative use, a large park, would entail no new taxes.

Having heard two proponents of an airport at El Toro - Jan Mittermeier, and general William Bloomer - GJAOC members have now heard the other side. It is doubtful that, after all the merits of both sides of the debate are carefully considered, anybody changed their mind about this hot button issue.

## MARCH SPEAKER - WEBSTER J. GUILLORY, ASSESSOR

Mr. Guillory will speak on the subject of "*Proposition 13, Proposition 8, and Equal Protection Clauses of the California and U.S. Constitution*"

Our speaker's background is one of civil structural engineering and aerospace engineering which has led him to a successful career of technical and business management. His responsibilities for the County of Orange includes the valuation of more than 950,000 property parcels worth over \$250 billion every year. Guillory has received many honors and awards including "Millennium 2000 Manager of the Year" for the Society for the Advancement of Management, and has acted as National Director of Information Technology for the National Association of Counties.

Please mark your calendar and join us for this interesting program.

## **THE BALANCING ACT**

In recent years, much has been made of the difficulty of striking a racial, age and gender balance in the selection of a grand jury. Too often the panel becomes one dominated by white males in their 60s and 70s. Orange County Superior Court has made a concerted effort to recruit grand jury applicants from minority populations and has had some success: From 170 applicants, the 2000/01 panel was composed of 3 Latinos, 2 Native Americans, 2 Asians, and 1 Afro-American along with 11 Caucasians (14 men, 5 women). The sitting panel has 3 Latinos and 1 Asian and 15 Caucasians (13 men, 6 women) selected from 173 original applicants.

This year, recruiting was slow - only 69 applications had been received by Christmas, just three weeks before the close of the program. But as the deadline approached, the number of aspirants rose to a final count of 222. Of that number, 150 are males, 72 females; 180 whites, 42 minorities of whom 23 are Latino. The average age of the pool is 65.75 years.

### ***An indictment rejected***

In Ventura County, things are different: A Santa Barbara County Superior Court judge has ruled that the neighboring county's grand jury did not present a fair cross-section of the community - too few women - and therefore overturned an indictment that was handed up last year. Only 49 people volunteered to serve on

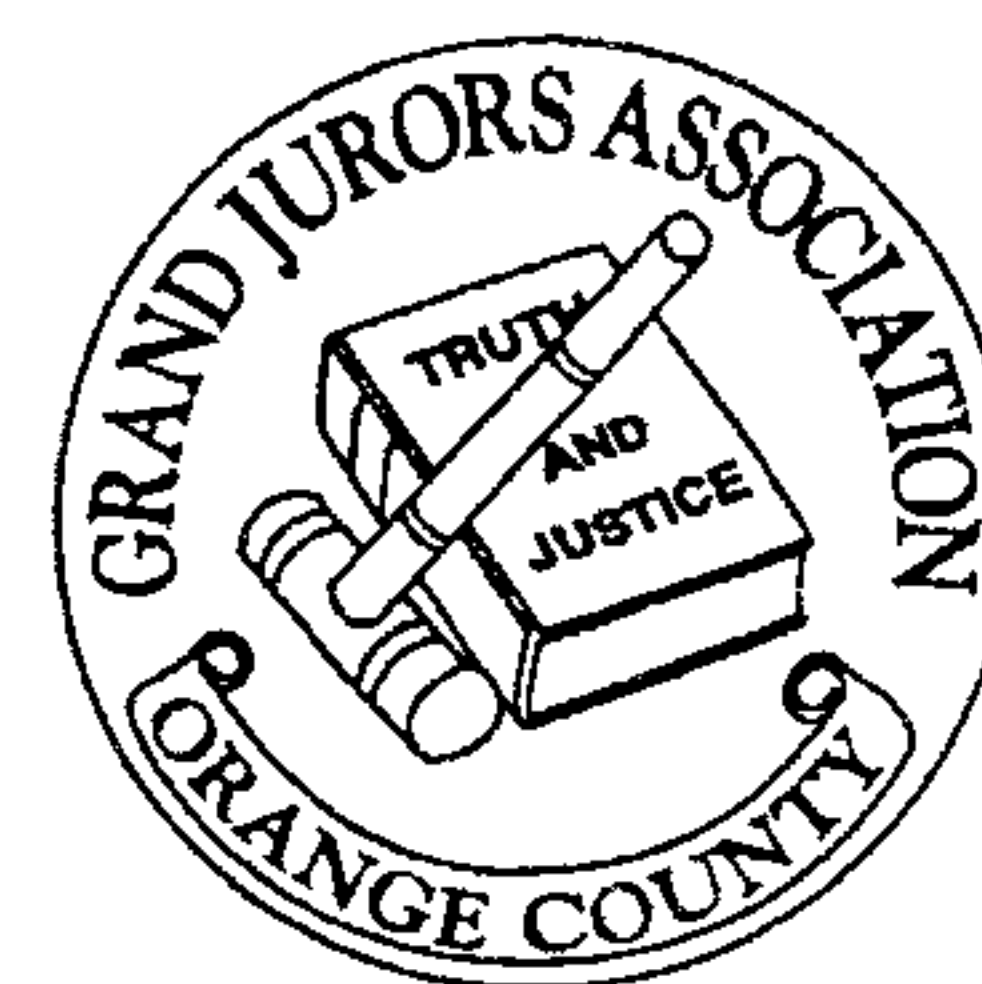
the Ventura County panel in 2000. Of those, 38 were white, and 13 were female. The rape/murder case will now be handled as a normal arraignment-cum-preliminary hearing case, and while the grand jury selection process was deemed "defective," the judge found that there was no intentional discrimination.

## **GRAND JURY LEGISLATION Bob Geiss, Director**

The last few months have been hectic on the legislative front as the Kelso Report, generated by the Professor Kelso and staff of the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, has generated a spate of potential ill-considered "fixes" to the Grand Jury system by means of hasty legislative actions. In short, the recommendations of the "Kelso Report" could turn Grand Jury watch dog functions into a lap dog tail wagger. (Details on our GJAOC concerns about "Kelso" can be gotten from Bob Geiss.)

In synch with the California Grand Jury Association (Jack Zepp, President) who shares our concerns, we have taken steps to call on and advise our local state legislators as to the breadth and nature of our misgivings about the proposals advocated by Prof. Kelso. We have recently talked to State Senators Dick Ackerman and Ross Johnson and Assembly people Tom Harman and Patricia

Bates. During talks with our representatives, we have stressed our willingness to participate in an orderly and meaningful review of Grand Jury-relevant statutes and to provide constructive and helpful support to such activities leading to statute reform that doesn't gut the Grand Jury system. To date, the people we have contacted have seemed more than willing to have us participate in any upcoming legislative review and changes. We have plans to talk to the remaining OC senators and assemblymen in the near future. I will be traveling to Sacramento in late February to join CGJA President Jack Zepp in lobbying the Administrative Officers of the Court and Judicial Council organizations on the merits of making haste slowly and carefully in any steps toward Grand Jury legislative reform.



# NOTES & MISCELLANY

## TREASURERS REPORT

As of January 31, 2002  
Checking account balance:  
\$ 7,178.60  
Custom Time Deposit:  
\$3,289.81  
Total Reserves:  
\$10,468.41  
Joe Quiros, Treasurer

## VOLUNTEER OPORTUNITY

Orange County's Sheriff's Department holds interviews for applicants to entry level positions. The selection panel is made up of two officers and one civilian. The civilian participant needs a background check done by the department before they are allowed to volunteer.

The beauty of being a past grand juror is that they have had a background check already and therefore are able to begin work immediately.

Once on the list of the selection panel, you will be called periodically with available dates of service. Interviews are held in the Sheriff's office on Flower. They will pay

for your parking. Sessions run for one-half or one full day. You will be providing a valuable service and have an interesting day.

For more information or to add your name to the panel pool, please call Deputy Page at 714-647-7005

## MEMBERSHIP

We are fast approaching the end of our membership drive for this year. To date, we have 160 paid members.

The By-laws of the Association require that we limit our mailing list as of June 1, 2002, to paid members only. This will be the last NewsLetter we can send to past Grand Jurors who do not renew their membership.

You have, or will soon, receive a reminder letter regarding renewal for this year. Please help us keep our Association strong and vibrant through your participation.

**In Memoriam**  
1992-93 panel member  
Reynold Elkin passed away  
in January, 2002.

## LUNCHEON PRICES

At the February Board of Directors meeting it was announced that the price of the luncheons at the Phoenix Club has been increased to \$18.00. The Board again voted to underwrite the increase and charge the attendees only \$15.00 for lunch which was the cost when we started having our quarterly lunches there.

The Board of Directors decided some years ago, to hold the luncheon price at \$15.00 in spite of the year to year increases in cost which were expected.

The Association has a contract to screen and select a panel of applicants to serve on the Measure M Citizens Oversight Committee. The OCTA pays the GJAOC to perform this service on a yearly basis.

Since we are a non-profit organization, the Board of Directors chose to subsidize a portion of the cost of the quarterly luncheons as a means to distribute a portion of this money to the members.

## GJAOC 2002 Proposed Budget

### Income

Bank Interest	100.
Measure M	3,000.
Membership Dues	2,500.

### Expense

Calif. GJA	1,000.
Expense Accounts	
Program	50.
Legislation & TIC	250.
Newsletter	2,000.
Nominating Committee	50.
President	100.
Membership	500.
Secretary	100.
Treasurer	50.
Luncheon Subsidize	
Complimentary	600.
Subsidy	600.
Miscellaneous	700.

Total Income 5,600.

Total Expenses 6,000

**FRANK & ERNEST** By BOB THAVES

