



THE

NEWSLETTER

GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 18, No. 3

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

August 2004

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JOIN US FOR LUNCH
Thursday, September 2
at Phoenix Club
1340 S. Sanderson Ave. Anaheim

Speaker

Alan Slater
Chief Executive Officer
Orange County Superior Court

D.A.'S OFFICE WINS LAWSUITS

The 2001-02 Grand Jury published the bomb shell report "Office of the District Attorney - an In-Depth Investigation," a study begun by its predecessor panel. The controversial report accused District Attorney Tony Rackauckas of abuse of power, improper personnel practices, misuse of county resources, undue personal involvement in case dispositions, and interference in office matters by his wife, a junior-level staff attorney. An investigation by State Attorney General Bill Lockyer concluded that no crimes occurred, but that Rackauckas had shown mismanagement and poor judgment.

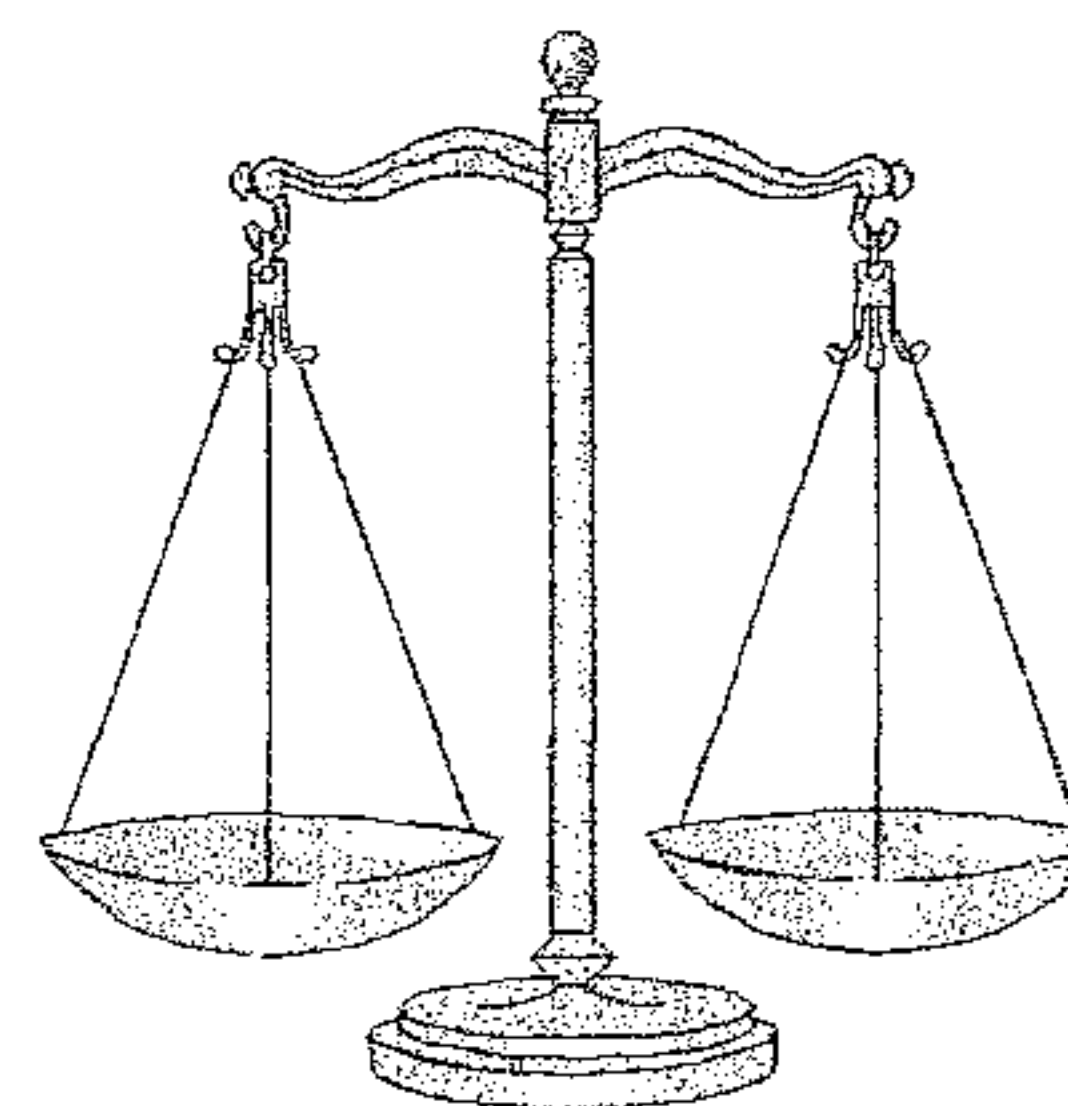
Nevertheless, several of the victims of the D.A.'s wholesale reorganization, which some call "revenge for disloyalty," have filed lawsuits alleging wrongful dismissals or demotions during the past six years. Some of these litigants are well known to GJAOC members.

In late June Philip Hickok, a Los Angeles County judge, dismissed most of a lawsuit brought against Rackauckas by Wally Wade, Guy Ormes, Constance Bailey, and Vickie Hix, all of whom had been transferred out of the District attorney's office to Child Support Services (now a state function.) The judge's action was as a result of a motion, entered by the county during trial that state labor code, which

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SEPTEMBER SPEAKER - ALAN SLATER

Alan Slater has been the Executive Officer of the Orange County Superior Court since 1981. Mr. Slater has primary responsibility for all of the administrative and non-judicial functions of the county's justice center and its branches. During his employment by the court, he has acted as Assistant Executive Officer, Clerk of the Court, and Jury Commissioner. With the unification of the six Orange County trial courts on August 10, 1998, Slater's title became Chief Executive Officer of the combined functions. The Superior Court now consists of 143 judicial officers operating at five justice centers. On September 2, GJAOC members will hear of the current status of the Superior Court with Slater's perspective of more than 32 years of county service. Don't miss it.



(D.A. continued from p.1)

formed the basis for the suit, did not apply to government workers. Jurors who were hearing the case were stunned having "...already decided for the plaintiffs" and ready to determine damages including back pay for Wade and approximately \$1 million for each plaintiff. A month later, Judge Hickok ruled again for Rackaukas, saying that he was within his rights to transfer the four plaintiffs and did not have to reinstate them. Wade plans to appeal.

Mike Jacobs, a homicide prosecutor, who had cooperated with the Attorney General in the 2001 investigation, lost his lawsuit against Rackaukas but an arbitrator awarded him reinstatement last year complete with back pay and benefits. Jacobs has a separate federal whistleblowing case pending. **Karen Davis** was reinstated and awarded back pay. **Devallis Rutledge** won \$45,000 in damages for having been demoted by the D.A. for allegedly vindictive reasons. **Lyle Wilson, Joseph Smith, Michelle Ermard** and **Jane Shade** have suits pending.

BOARD ELECTION NEWS

The time has come again to elect six members to your Board of Directors for the term of two years.

It is our good fortune to announce that the four members whose term would ordinarily be ending, have agreed to run again. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of six to the membership at the September meeting. In accordance with our By-Laws, any member, in good standing, may be nominated from the floor at this meeting, or by mail received prior to the luncheon. All nominations must be accompanied

by written permission of the nominee. All mailed nominations must be in the hands of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee by August 15, 2004.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee is:

Jim Nolan
10348 Bunting Circle
Fountain Valley
CA 92708
Tel: 714-964-7024

QUARTERLY LUNCH MEETINGS

At their August meeting, your Board of Directors included prospective speakers who would like to make presentations to the group in the same category as printed handouts. Both must have approval by a majority of the Board prior to the meeting. In the case of controversial issues, the Board may strive to present both sides.

Approval may be requested through any Board member one month before our lunch meeting.

NEW ELEMENT DISCOVERED

A major research institution has recently announced the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element has been tentatively named Governmentium.

Governmentium has one neutron, 11 underneutrons, 12 assistant neutrons, 75 deputy neutrons, and 213 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons. Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert.

However, it can be detected as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A minute amount of Governmentium causes one reaction to take four days to complete when it would normally take less than a second. Some scientists speculate that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as a Critical Morass.

When catalyzed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium, an element which radiates just as much energy since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

NOTES & MISCELLANY

TREASURERS REPORT

As of July 31, 2004 Checking account balance:
 \$5,340.43
 Certificate of Deposit \$3,405.61
 Total Reserves:
 \$8,746.04
 R. H. Fauteux, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP EBB AND FLOW

171 members have renewed their membership in GJAOC for the year 2004. We will enlist 19 new members in our ranks in July as they step down from jury service. We look forward to welcoming them.

GJAOC membership has reached an all time high with 203 members. WAY TO GO!

- Jim Nolan, *membership chair*.

Providing information to members at quarterly luncheons requires approval. Contact a Board member with your request to distribute hand-out material or to speak.

FINAL REPORT

Orange County's 2003-04 final report is published and distributed. These reports can be seen on-line at www.occourts.org/grnd_jury. Kern County mailed their final report to us on a CD. This may prove to be an efficient and cost effective way to distribute all final reports in the future.

IN MEMORIAM

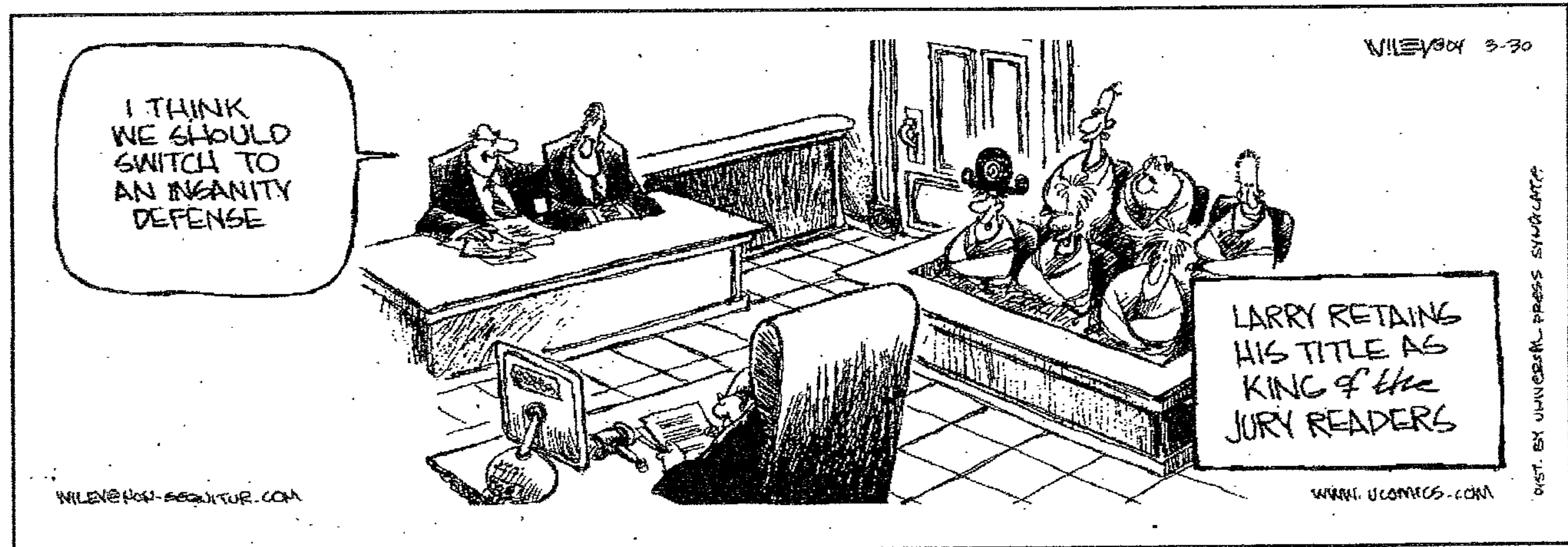
Janice Stopher

died in July, 2004

She was an important member of the 1989-90 panel

LEGISLATION

Our Orange County watch dog regarding proposed California legislation, reports that two bills which had been introduced: SB1673 and AB 2714 have stalled. This is viewed as good news to our existing grand jury system.



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