

From: Diane Masini ✓ (domasini@sbcglobal.net)

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Subject: California Grand Jurors' News

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As those of you who attended CGJA's Annual Conference in Lafayette earlier this month can attest, the gathering was a huge success. This edition of the *CGJA News* covers some, but certainly not all, of the highlights of that conference, including the results of the recent election.

CGJA was honored to have as its keynote speaker the Chief Justice of California, Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye. The Chief Justice, a fabulous extemporaneous speaker, spoke for nearly an hour. She discussed several topics of interest to our audience: the need for more transparency and accountability at all levels of government; the dearth of civics knowledge, particularly among our young people; the challenge of keeping youth in school and out of the criminal justice system; and the value of diversity in our public institutions. The Chief Justice also spoke of her upbringing and her unconventional career path. From modest beginnings and an education at a community college and state university, she went on to become a prosecutor, then a trial court judge, an appellate court justice, and since 2011, the head of California's judicial branch, the world's largest judicial system.

As part of her President's Report, Karen Jahr announced that she and Director and Training Committee Chair Marsha Caranci had been invited to give a presentation, *Practical Approaches to Supervising Grand Juries*, at the Judicial Council's 2015 court management conference. The presentation was warmly received by 100 presiding judges, assistant presiding judges, and court administrators; and CGJA has been invited to return for next year's annual conference.

December's *Journal* will discuss the other conference presentations in detail.

The results of the recent election were announced at the Annual Conference. All three of the ballot measures passed handily, with more than 72% of voters in favor of each measure. As a result, the Bylaws are amended to reduce the term limits for Directors from a maximum of five consecutive two-year terms to three consecutive two-year terms. Directors will henceforth be elected by region, rather than statewide. And the Board is now authorized to remove a Director who moves out of the region in

which he or she was elected.

The ballot also included the election of Directors. In the southern region, Mac Small was elected and Jim Ragan was reelected to the Board of Directors. In the north, Andi Winters was elected and Karen Jahr was reelected. In the central region, Lou Meyer and Diane Shepp were reelected. However, before the vote was announced, Lou Meyer decided not to take his seat, and at the October 27 Board of Directors meeting, Rich Knowles, the runner-up, was appointed to fill that position.

Taking over as CGJA's Treasurer is Director Medsie Bolin, replacing Lou Meyer. The Board of Directors thanks him and the other outgoing Directors, Karin Hern and Dianne Hoffman (both of whom chose not to seek reelection), and Beckie Jennings, for their many contributions to our Association.

Please join the Board in welcoming Andi Winters, Mac Small, and Rich Knowles to the Board, and Director Medsie Bolin to the office of Treasurer. We congratulate them all and thank them for their willingness to serve.

We also convey our sincere thanks to the Contra Costa Chapter and to the Host Committee Chair, CGJA Director Lloyd Bell, for putting on such a professional, enlightening, and enjoyable Annual Conference.

Karen Jahr
President