



## CGJA News - November 2017

### Annual Conference Highlights

Our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was a tremendous success. Our Annual Conference Committee worked hard to present a venue and a program of interest to all. They achieved that goal with outstanding results!

This year we were pleased to honor our Training Committee Chair, Marsha Caranci with the CGJA Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of exceptional and important work to further the goals and purposes of CGJA. Marsha's commitment and dedication to CGJA is unparalleled and we were so happy to honor her in this way.

The Conference was fortunate to have outstanding guest speakers. Judge Steven Jahr, as Keynote Speaker, gave us a good overview of the judicial role in the workings of grand juries. Dave Eyster, Mendocino District Attorney, spoke about the effects of marijuana in his county and what he sees in the future with legalization beginning January 1.

Former Contra Costa County Foreperson Jim Mellander led us through the process his jury went through to arrive at an Accusation that help prompt the resignation of the Contra Costa County District Attorney.

We also had a discussion led by Kathy Wylie about the new CGJA Public Education Committee with input from the attendees. The Chapter Members/Officers Meeting run by Rich Knowles was well-attended with many helpful exchanges of information.

We welcomed two new board members. Travis Gibbons and John Heckel while saying good bye to past president Karen Jahr. Jim Ragan has agreed to stay on for another year to remain in the important position of secretary of the board.

Karin Hern was honored with the prestigious Angelo Rolando award for her years of outstanding and exceptional service to CGJA.

The 2015-16 Lake County Grand Jury received the 2017 Best Grand Jury Report Award for reporting on the disorganized coordination of emergency services amid one of the largest disasters in California and the 2017 Best News Media Reporting Award went to the East Bay Express for its thorough coverage of the Alameda County Grand Jury reports in 2016.

A full report on the Annual Conference will appear in the upcoming Journal in December. Meanwhile, the Annual Conference Committee is working on the 37<sup>th</sup> conference which will be held in South Lake Tahoe. Don't miss out on a great chance to meet fellow grand jurors and renew friendships.

Andi Winters  
President

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