

2019-2020 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT



Protecting the Public Interest

2019-2020
KERN COUNTY
GRAND JURY
FINAL REPORT





2019-2020 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY MEMBERS

NAME	TERM SERVED	CITY	NOMINATING JUDGE
Aguilu, Bradley	2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2019-2020	Tehachapi	Hon J. D. Oglesby
Ardis, Dwayne	2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2018-2019 2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. Steven. M. Katz
Atchison, Georgina L.	2018-2019, 2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. S. M. Katz
Benson, Richard J.	2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. S. D. Schuett
Biscar, Donald	2018-2019, 2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. S. M. Katz
Carlson, Robert S.	2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. S. D. Schuett
Chaffin, Gary	2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2018-2019 2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. J. W. Lua
Christensen, Terry A.	2018-2019, 2019-2020	Tehachapi	Hon. J. D. Oglesby
Cooper, Kenneth M.	2018-2019, 2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. J. D. Oglesby
Elliott, Dennis M.	2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2016-2017 2017-2018, 2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. S. D. Schuett
French, Ellen J.	2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. J. W. Lua
Hightower, Earlene T.	2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2017-2018 2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. M. G. Bush
Jackson, Kathy J.	2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. M. G. Bush
Krebsbach, Peter A.	2018-2019, 2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. R. Wm. Wyatt
Mankoff, Rose M.T.	2019-2020	Stallion Spgs.	Hon. K. R. Green, Jr.
McConnell, Latricia B.	2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. J. R. Brownlee
Newman, Donna M.	2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. R. Wm. Wyatt
Troxel, Jerry D.	2018-2019, 2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. J. D. Oglesby
Vicuna, Enrique R.	2018-2019, 2019-2020	Bakersfield	Hon. S. D. Schuett

ALSO SERVED:

Browder, Jason K.
McGraw, Colleen T.
Otero, Johnny B.

2019-2020 Kern County Grand Jury



Jerry D. Troxel
Foreperson



Dwayne Ardis
Pro Tem



Enrique Vicuna
Parliamentarian



Donalda Biscar
Recording Secretary



Brad Aguilu
Sergeant-at-Arms



Georgina Atchison
Sergeant-at-Arms



Richard Benson



Robert Carlson



Gary Chaffin



Terry Christensen



Ken Cooper



Mike Elliott



Ellen French



Earlene Hightower



Kathy Jackson



Pete Krebsbach



Rose M.T. Mankoff



Latricia McConnell



Donna Newman

2019 – 2020 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY



MISSION STATEMENT

The first Kern County Grand Jury was appointed by the Kern County Board of Supervisors in 1866. For over 154 years, the Grand Jury mission has not changed. The mission is to be the Watchdog for the public.

The Kern County Grand Jury reviews cities within the County, county departments, local governmental agencies and special districts to ensure these bodies of government comply with fiduciary responsibilities and are governed effectively. The Grand Jury is charged with the oversight of all County and local law enforcement agencies and non-federal penal facilities within the County.

2019 – 2020 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY

Citizen complaints are received and reviewed by the Grand Jury. The Standing and Ad Hoc Committees will investigate, evaluate and report findings to the Jury which may then include recommendations to the entities.

Standing Committees are: Administration, Audit and County Services; Cities and Joint Powers; Health, Education and Social Services; Law and Justice and Special Districts.

The Grand Jury may also hear criminal indictments brought by the District Attorney's Office for a criminal or civil offense. The Grand Jury may consider a case against a public officer for malfeasance or an accusation.

At the end of its term, the Grand Jury issues a final report to the Presiding Judge. Portions of the document pertaining to investigation results during the year may have been previously released to encourage action on urgent matters. All reports include findings and recommendations of each committee and are available to the general public, the media and on the Grand Jury website.



www.kerncounty.com/grandjury



GRAND JUROR'S OATH

The following oath is administered to Grand Jurors:

"I do solemnly swear (affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of California, and all laws made pursuant to and in conformity therewith, will diligently inquire into, and true presentment make, of all public offenses against the people of this state, committed or triable within this county, of which the grand jury shall have or can obtain legal evidence. Further, I will not disclose any evidence brought before the grand jury, nor anything which I or any other grand juror may say, nor the manner in which I or any other grand juror may have voted on any matter before the grand jury. I will keep the charge that will be given to me by the court."

(Penal Code §911)

2019-2020 GRAND JURY ACTIVITIES



Delano Prison Court



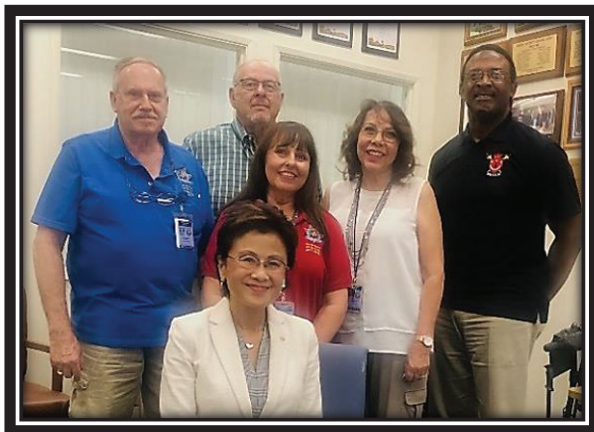
Board of Supervisor's Proclamation



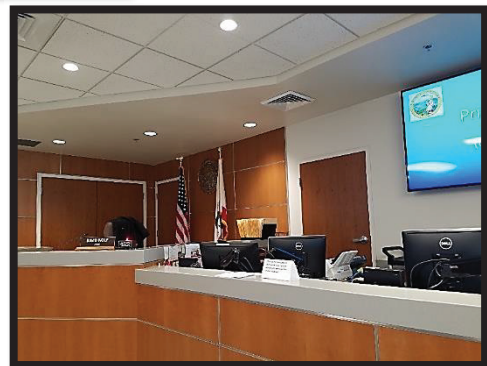
KCSO Evidence Locker

- California Grand Jurors' Association Foreperson and Jury Training, Visalia
- California Grand Jurors' Association Report Writing Workshop, Visalia
- Kern County Grand Jury Association quarterly meetings, Bakersfield
- Visit Kern County Sheriff's Office Central Receiving Facility, Bakersfield
- Visit Kern County Sheriff's Office Evidence Locker, Bakersfield
- Visit the Kern County Crime Facility
- Kern County Emergency Operations Center
- Visit Kern County Superior Prison Court in Delano
- Visit and Inspection of 10 Prisons
- Attend weekly Kern County Board of Supervisors meetings
- Kern County Grand Jury Awareness Week ceremony
- Kern County Board of Supervisors Proclamation presented by Supervisor David Couch
- Responded to over 41 citizen complaints
- Released over 22 Final Reports
- Conducted 3 criminal indictments for the District Attorney's Office
- Coordinated a Christmas Toy Drive for the children at the Jamison Children's Center
- Public Awareness Booth at the Kern County Home and Garden Show, 3 days
- Various guest speakers with open discussions
- Revised the Kern County Grand Jury 2020-2021 Procedures Manual

2019-2020 GRAND JURY ACTIVITIES



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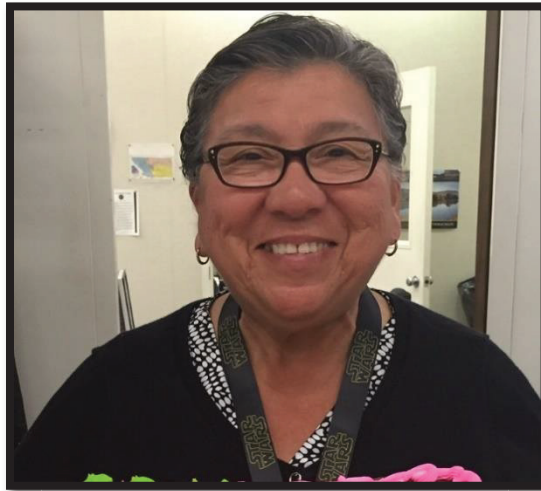


KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ADVISORY JUDGE



Honorable Judith K. Dulcich
Presiding Judge
January 2019 - Present

SUPPORT STAFF



Gloria G Rangel
Senior Office Services Specialist



Margo A Raison
County Counsel



Mark Pafford
Supervising Deputy District Attorney
October 2019 - Current



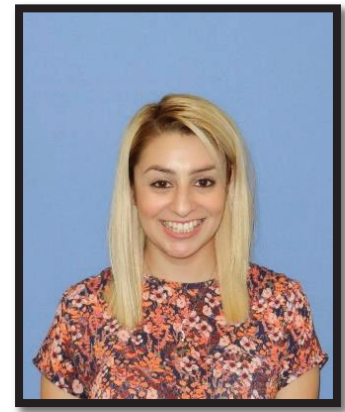
Michael J Yraceburn
July 2019 to October 2019



Stacy Garner
Presiding Secretary



Tamarah Harber-Pickens
Court Executive Officer



Julie Flores
Grand Jury Liaison



2019-2020

Jerry D. Troxel
Foreperson

Bradley Aguila

Dwayne Ardis

Georgina L. Atchison

Richard J. Benson

Donalda Biscar

Robert S. Carlson

Gary Chaffin

Terry A. Christensen

Kenneth M. Cooper

Mike Elliott

Ellen J. French

Earlene T. Hightower

Kathy J. Jackson

Peter A. Krebsbach

Rose M. T. Mankoff

Latricia B. McConnell

Donna M. Newman

Enrique R. Vicuna

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BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
(661) 868-4797
FAX: (661) 321-0761
www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury

Kern County GRAND JURY

June 18, 2020

The Honorable Judith K. Dulcich
Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93301

Dear Judge Dulcich:

As the term of the 2019-2020 Kern County Grand Jury comes to an end, I hereby submit our Final Report.

This year's Grand Jury consisted of nineteen jurors and three alternates from all over Kern County. On behalf of the Jury and myself, I would like to thank you for your time, knowledge and support that you have given to this Grand Jury. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Kern County.

This year's Grand Jury performed their duties with dedication and commitment. We successfully completed our investigations, wrote reports, answered citizen complaints, and stayed within our operating budget. In addition, we participated in three criminal indictments brought before us by Deputy District Attorney, Eric Smith. Criminal indictments became an important function for this year's Grand Jury.

On March 16, 2020, this Grand Jury was furloughed for seven weeks due to Covid-19 with sixteen jurors returning on May 04, 2020. We completed several reports while adapting to new working guidelines. The remaining jurors returned to work on May 26, 2020. The methodology that the Grand Jury has historically used to conduct investigations and meetings is being challenged under the current environment as we navigate through these difficult times.

Appreciation and special thanks to the members of the Kern County Superior Court system, Assistant Judicial Secretary Julie Flores and Court Executive Officer, Tamara Harber-Pickens. A special thanks to Supervising Deputy District Attorneys Michael J. Yraceburn and Mark Pafford; County Counsel Margo Rasion; Senior Office Services Specialist Gloria Rangel; Clerk of the Board Kathleen Krause; County Sheriff Donny Youngblood and the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

As Foreperson, I would like to express my appreciation to all the officers, chairpersons and members of the 2019-2020 Grand Jury for a job well done. It was an honor and privilege to serve the Citizens of Kern County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jerry D. Troxel".

Jerry D. Troxel, Foreperson
2019-2020 Kern County Grand Jury

2019-2020 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY

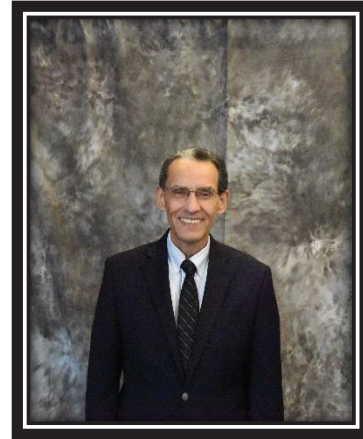


**JERRY D. TROXEL
FOREPERSON**

2019-2020 GRAND JURY OFFICERS



Dwayne Ardis
Pro Tem



Enrique Vicuna
Parliamentarian



Donalda Biscar
Recording Secretary



Earlene Hightower
Fee Manager



Georgina Atchison
Sergeant-At-Arms



Brad Aguilu
Sergeant-At-Arms

2019-2020 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY FORMAL STATEMENT

Grand juries have existed in the State of California since the adoption of the State's Constitution in 1849-1850. The Constitution requires that a Grand Jury "be drawn and summoned at least once a year in each county." According to Kern County Board of Supervisors records, the first Grand Jury was selected in 1867. The Board of Supervisors meeting minutes, although very difficult to read, reflected, "Apportionment of persons to be selected and returned from various townships to serve as Grand and Trial Jurors for the year 1867." This would have been the first Kern County Grand Jury. At that time, names of persons to serve were drawn from the property tax assessment roll. One hundred and fifty-three years later, the 2019-2020 Kern County Grand Jury was selected by a blind draw of over 30 volunteers. Nineteen jurors and alternates were selected to represent Kern County and sworn in by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court to uphold the Grand Juror's Oath.

All Grand Juries are independent judicial bodies. Responsibilities include investigating all aspects of County government, special districts, cities within the County and citizen complaints, to ensure that these bodies govern effectively and efficiently. The Grand Jury is considered to be the "watchdog" for the citizens of the County and "an arm of the court". The Grand Jury also functions as an investigative "criminal" body, conducting hearings, which can lead to indictments by the Attorney General and the District Attorney's office. To fulfill these responsibilities, the Grand Jury may subpoena persons and/or records to obtain information on subjects under investigation. To protect the constitutional rights of parties being investigated, the Grand Jurors are sworn to lifelong confidentiality.

The Grand Jury conducts business at a "plenary", a weekly general meeting. Actions taken during the year are considered to be official Grand Jury business, and must be approved by at least twelve of the nineteen Jurors.

The 2019-2020 Kern County Grand Jury consisted of nineteen volunteers from Tehachapi, Pine Mountain Club, Shafter and Bakersfield. Nine men and ten women served approximately 175 days, four days a week, and five hours a day to fulfill their responsibilities to the citizens of Kern County. Jurors served on one of five standing committees: Administration, Audit, and County Services; Cities and Joint Powers; Special Districts; Health, Education, and Social Services; or Law and Justice. Additional committees were appointed to help fulfill the Grand Jury duties: Edit and Final Report; Budget; Public Relations; Library and Ad Hoc Committees. This Grand Jury Final Report contains reports, activities, and the work of each committee.

PROCLAMATION

The Board of Supervisors
of the County of Kern,
State of California
has officially proclaimed

February 3 - 7, 2020



as
**Grand Jury Public Awareness Week
in Kern County**

and this recognition has
been entered in the
official Board minutes

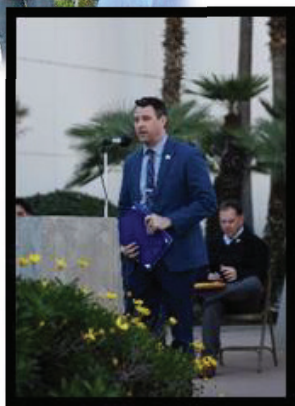
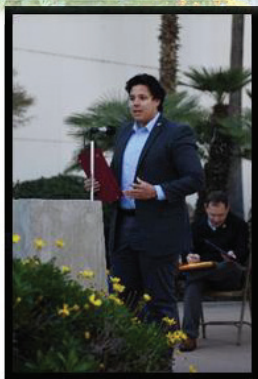
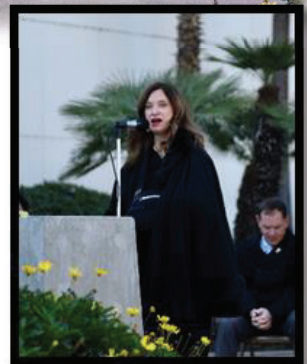
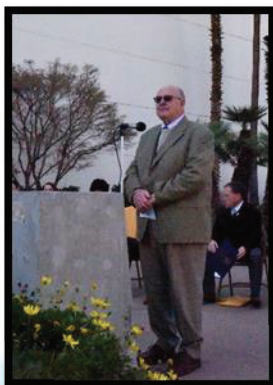
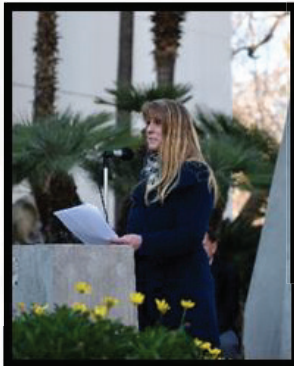
CHAIRMAN, KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 4, 2020

DATE



GRAND JURY AWARENESS WEEK AND RECRUITMENT



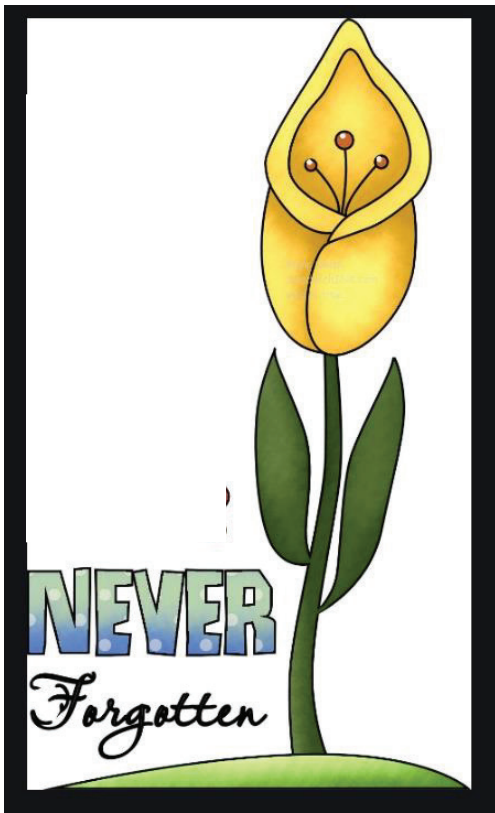
2019-2020 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY VETERANS



Brad Aguilu Pete Krebsbach Georgina Atchison Gary Chaffin Dwayne Ardis



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



We Remember



Loretta Avery
11/4/2019
2011 – 2012
2012 – 2013
2014 – 2015
2015 – 2016
2018 - 2019



Gerald M. Alderete
10/14/2019
1992 – 1993
1995 - 1996



Charlynn McCarthy
1/7/2020
2008 – 2009
2017 – 2018
2018 - 2019



John (Poppa) Mainland
2/5/2020
2004 – 2005
2006 – 2007
2007 – 2008
2009 – 2010
2010 - 2011



Anthony (Tony) Noce
2/20/2020
2001 – 2002
2003 – 2004
2010 - 2011