



Superior Court
State of California
COUNTY OF KERN

COLETTE M. HUMPHREY
JUDGE

1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-4934

Dear Members of the 2021-2022 Kern County Grand Jury:

You have been duly impaneled, sworn, and now constitute the 2021-2022 Kern County Grand Jury. In accordance with Penal Code section 914, it is my duty to instruct and charge you concerning the functions and laws that apply to your work. It is your duty to follow these instructions.

Your responsibilities are chiefly investigatory. There are two broad components.

- First, to examine the functioning and performance of public offices and officers. You will report on your examinations and you may make recommendations for changes to the operations and structure of public offices or agencies. This is sometimes called the civil or "housekeeping" function.
- Second, to inquire into possible public offenses and, more rarely, allegations of misconduct in office of public officers and then determine whether to return indictments charging the commission of public offenses, or accusations in the case of public office misconduct. This responsibility is sometimes called the criminal function.

Most grand juries have found their various functions are more easily accomplished by dividing into committees. There is no hard and fast rule as to what or how many committees you should organize. In the past, grand juries have functioned through committees such as administrative, criminal justice, health & welfare, and various other special committees. The foreperson will make committee appointments after having had an opportunity to become acquainted with all members of the grand jury, including the background, occupation, and general qualifications of each member. Each committee will take part in selecting its own chairperson.

The 19 of you are expected to work as a body of one. You will need to determine a specific day for a weekly group meeting as well as set the operating schedule for your committees. Depending upon the work you do, there may be additional days requiring your participation and attendance with the entire Grand Jury. Further, you shall hold sessions when requested by the District Attorney for the presentation of criminal cases; or when requested by the Presiding Judge; and when directed by the Attorney General.

The Grand Jury is required by law to inquire into or investigate and report certain agencies or institutions. The majority of these required reporting fall under the Law and Justice Committee. To ensure that all other committees are functioning at a standardized pace, the Court, by this charge, will require all committees to investigate and report on a minimum of two entities under that committees' jurisdiction.

When an investigation on a specific criminal charge is being conducted, the services of a court reporter are available to take and transcribe testimony. When a court reporter is needed, the Foreperson must give reasonable notice to the Superior Court Liaison and District Attorney's Office to ensure the reporter's presence, which is a statutory requirement. The Foreperson must administer an oath before the court reporter undertakes their reporting duties.

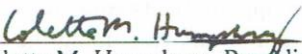
Through your Foreperson, you may ask the advice of the Presiding Judge, the County Counsel, or the District Attorney. Unless advice is requested, only members of the Grand Jury may be present during your sessions. The District Attorney may appear before you for the limited purpose of providing information or advice as to matters within their authority. Only Grand Jury members may be present during the expression of the opinions of the Grand Jurors or when the Jury votes.

You may seek advice from the County Counsel on civil matters. As to administrative and organizational matters, the issuing of reports or other similar matters, the Foreperson may request advice from the Presiding Judge.

Grand Jury proceedings are confidential and are not to be discussed outside of the Grand Jury. Unauthorized disclosure of grand jury matters is a criminal offense. No grand juror has any authority to act individually. All visits made on behalf of the Grand Jury are to be made with two or more grand jurors present. Action may be taken only after a majority of grand jurors have authorized it.

On **Tuesday, July 6, 2021**, you are to report to the third floor, Multi-Purpose Room of the County Administrative Center for a one-day orientation. This will mark your first official day of duty.

The public rightfully expects you will diligently and impartially perform your duties, dedicating yourselves to the furtherance of the general good. I have confidence in each of you and I am equally confident your term will prove to be rewarding for you and the citizens of the County whom you have chosen to serve.



Colette M. Humphrey, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Kern

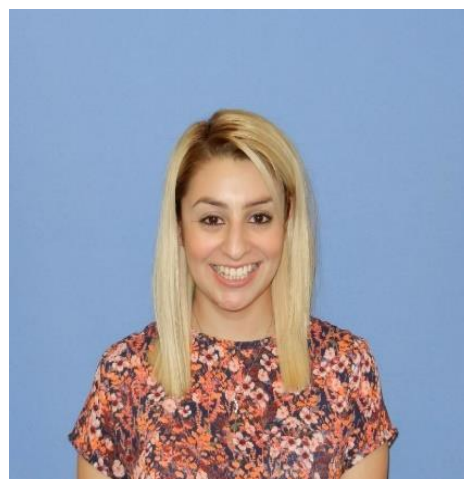


**THE HONORABLE PRESIDING JUDGE
COLETTE HUMPHREY 2021-2022**

SUPPORT STAFF



TAMARAH HARBER-PICKENS
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER



JULIE FLORES
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY





Kern County **GRAND JURY**

June 16, 2022

2021-2022

Michael R. Bryant
Foreman

Georgina Atchison

Brett Bayley

Donalda Biscar

Stephen D. Bowles

Dale S. Brakebill

Christine L. Callison

Gary Chaffin

Kenneth M. Cooper

Sharron Forney

Catherine Garcia

Ray Grissom

Judith K. House

Thomas Pasek

John R. Regan

Alfredo Robledo

Enrique R. Vicuna

Debra E. Watson

The Honorable Colette M. Humphrey
Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield CA 93301

Dear Judge Humphrey:

As the term of the 2021-2022 Kern County Grand Jury comes to an end, I respectfully submit our Final Report.

On behalf of the Grand Jury, I would like to commend you and your staff, particularly Julie Flores, Executive Secretary, for your leadership and support. Special thanks to Senior Office Services Specialist Eleanor Lara for her excellent service and dedication to keeping the high standards and traditions alive through the Grand Jury's ever-changing dynamics.

The Grand Jury relies heavily on advice from our legal advisor. Special thanks to Margo Raison, County Counsel, for her direction and encouragement throughout the year.

Early in our term, at the request of the District Attorney's Office, this Grand Jury heard testimony in two Criminal Indictments. The indictment process was challenging and educational. We want to thank Supervising Deputy District Attorney's Kate Zimmerman and Eric Smith, including Deputy District Attorney's Christine Antonios, Tyson McCoy, and Bryant Estep, for their continuing support and guidance during the indictment process and throughout the year.

Many of our experienced jurors mentored newer members to prepare for the indictment proceedings. As a result, the group of nineteen strangers from diverse and varied backgrounds became a dedicated and cohesive working unit.



Kern County **GRAND JURY**

Once the indictments were completed, we focused on our civil duties as watchdogs of the community. The Grand Jury is asked to objectively investigate all branches of county and city government to assure that they are being administered efficiently, honestly, and in the best interest of its citizens.

In addition to the indictments, this Grand Jury conducted several in-depth inquiries. Completed 14 reports and reviewed more than 34 complaints from concerned citizens.

Raising awareness and sharing the opportunity to serve the community has been a large part of our mission this year. Jurors strived to understand better and appreciate the Grand Jury's purpose and the value of citizen volunteers. Some of our members are military veterans who continue to serve their community proudly. We value our veterans and appreciate their service.

We look forward to sharing our experience with the future jurors as we pass the torch to the 2022-2023 Kern County Grand Jury.

Once again, thank you and all your staff for your support. The citizens of Kern County are fortunate to have a strong network of officials and staff who support the Grand Jury's mission.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bryant Foreman
2021-2022 Kern County Grand Jury



2021-2022 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY MEMBERS

Georgina Atchison	2018-19, 2019-20, 2021-22	Hon. Judge G.M. Bush
Brett Bayley	2021-22	Hon. Judge G.M. Bush
Donalda Biscar	2018-19, 2019-20	Hon. Judge
Stephen Bowles	2021-22	Hon. Judge J.K. Dulcich
Dale Brakebill	2020-21, 2021-22	Hon. Judge C.M. Humphrey
Michael Bryant	2018-19, 2020-21, 2021-22	Hon. Judge C.M. Humphrey
Christine Callison	2020-21, 2021-22	Hon. Judge J.D. Oglesby
Gary Chaffin	2014-15, 2015-16, 2018-19 2019-20, 2021-22	Hon. Judge J.W. Lua
Kenneth Cooper	2018-19, 2019-20, 2021-22	Hon. Judge J.W. Lua
Sharron Forney	2021-22	Hon. Judge B.M. McNamara
Catherine Garcia	2014-15, 2017-18, 2021-22	Hon. Judge B.M. McNamara
Ray Grissom	2014-15, 2015-16, 2017-18 2020-21, 2021-22	Hon. Judge R.W. Wyatt
Judith House	2013-14, 2014-15, 2016-17 2017-18, 2020-21, 2021-22	Hon. Judge R.W. Wyatt
Tom Pasek	2016-17, 2017-18, 2021-22	Hon. Judge T. Bowles
John Regan	2021-22	Hon. Judge G.A. Pulskamp
Alfredo Robledo	2021-22	Hon. Judge R.W. Wyatt
Enrique Vicuna	2018-19, 2019-20, 2021-22	Hon. Judge M.G. Bush
Debra Watson	2021-22	Hon. Judge D.R. Zulfa

MEMBERS ALSO SERVED:

Renn Amstead
 Robin Bohn
 Terry Christensen
 Elizabeth Fowler
 Ernest Hall
 Kael Mandt
 Joan Mueller
 Joe Thornton



**2021-2022 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY
FOREMAN**

MICHAEL BRYANT







Grand Juror's Oath

"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, or 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.)



STATEMENT OF THE 2021-2022 KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY

In 1849, the California State Constitution was adopted mandating that no one “be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime...unless on presentment or indictment of a grand jury.” Later amendments to the constitution in 1879 require that a grand jury “be drawn and summoned at least once a year in each county.” The first Kern County Grand Jury was appointed by the Kern County Board of Supervisors in 1866.

As it operates today, the grand jury is a part of the judicial branch of government – *an arm of the court*. It does not have the functions of either the legislative or administrative branches and it is not a police agency; it is an inquisitorial and investigative body. The primary function of the grand jury, and the most important reason for its existence, is the examination of all aspects of county government, special districts, cities, and citizen complaints to insure that these bodies are being effectively governed and that public funds are being judiciously handled – in general, assuring that honest, efficient government is carried out in the best interest of the people. Additionally, the law mandates the grand jury inquire into the condition and management of public prisons within the county. For over 154 years, the Kern County Grand Jury’s mandate has not changed – it is a *watchdog* for the public.

All 58 counties in the State of California are required by law to seat a grand jury each year. Grand jury recruitment occurs annually, typically starting early January through mid-April. Each year the Kern County Superior Court solicits applications for citizens to serve on the Grand Jury.

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 888 et seq., the Superior Court is charged with nominating qualified citizens to serve as members of the grand jury. To accomplish this, the court follows set procedures. The objective is to obtain a pool representative of the ethnic and cultural diversity of our county at large. The recruitment and selection of qualified jurors is the most critical factor in determining how effective any grand jury will become.

Citizens interested in grand jury service must submit an Application for Nomination. A background check is then made to determine if the applicant is qualified. A committee of Superior Court Judges interviews each qualified applicant to discuss their interests, qualifications, and the duties they will be expected to undertake. The Superior Court Judges make their nominations to the Presiding Judge.

In the Spring of each year, a drawing is held by the Clerk of the Court that reduces the list of prospective jurors to the 30 people who will be in the final drawing. The final random drawing occurs the third week of June. Before the drawing begins, the Presiding Judge identifies members from the previous grand jury to be held over as members of the new Grand Jury. The Presiding Judge may hold over as many as ten members from the previous grand jury. Once this is done, a drawing is held to select the rest of the 19-member jury, plus up to ten alternates. The purpose of selecting alternates is so that they may replace any juror unable to complete a full term. The new grand jury is sworn in and instructed as to their responsibilities. **Grand jurors are sworn to a lifetime of secrecy. Grand jury proceedings are confidential and are not discussed outside of the grand jury offices.** The Kern County Grand Jury is housed in the Superior Court building in downtown Bakersfield and meets four days a week, five hours per day during the fiscal year of July through June.

The Grand Jury exercises powers in three ways:

- (1) Issues reports that contain findings and recommendations to identify and help solve problems revealed during investigations.
- (2) Hears criminal matters brought before it by the District Attorney or Attorney General seeking an indictment for a criminal offense.
- (3) The District Attorney may bring before the Grand Jury a case against a public officer for misconduct and seeking a formal accusation to remove them from office.

In order to more efficiently conduct investigations, standing committees have been established:

- Administration, Audit, and County Services oversees and reviews county departments in their management, performance, and fiscal responsibilities to the taxpayers of Kern County.
- Cities and Joint Powers oversees and reviews all incorporated cities and Joint Powers Agreements within Kern County. This committee also investigates records, accounts, officers, departments and functions of the cities.
- Health, Education, and Social Services is responsible for reviewing and overseeing the operations of all schools, and county departments dealing with health and social services.
- Law and Justice conducts inquiries into the condition and management of all state public prisons within the county. Additionally, the committee is responsible for reviewing and investigating all law enforcement agencies, jails, and various county justice departments.
- Special Districts oversees and reviews the management, performance, and the execution of fiscal responsibilities of special districts within the county.

Ad Hoc committees are formed to assist other committees as needed.

The Grand Jury is charged with reviewing complaints received from citizens and determining if an inquiry or investigation is warranted.

In order to effectively fulfill its' responsibilities, the Grand Jury may subpoena persons and/or documents to obtain information on entities or subjects under investigation.

All 19 grand jurors take part in the review of and are responsible for the content of all reports. Upon completion of each report, after a review by County Counsel, a copy is provided to the Presiding Judge and upon approval is released to the public. Each report indicates to which entity or entities the report is addressed and provides a date for them to respond, specifically addressing each finding and recommendation. Each report and response is placed on the Kern County Grand Jury website. At the end of the year, all reports and responses received to date are consolidated into a Final Report, given to the Presiding Judge, and entered on the Grand Jury website.

In order for the Grand Jury to operate effectively, five internal (non-investigative) committees have been created:

- Continuity (monitors Board of Supervisor meetings)
- Public Relations
- Grand Jury Library
- Budget
- Edit and Final Report

PROCLAMATION

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

February 7 - 11, 2022

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 8, 2022

DATE





KERN COUNTY GRAND JURY ACTIVITIES

REPORTS WRITTEN:

Buttonwillow Recreation and Park District
California Attorney General v. Kern County Sheriff's Office
Cawelo Water District
City of Bakersfield
City of Delano
Frazier Park Public Utility District
General Services - Park Rangers and Security – *Online only*
Kern County Fire Department
Kern County General Services
Kern Valley Healthcare District – *Online only*
North Kern Cemetery District – *Online only*
Rand Water District
SISC - Self-Insured Schools of California
The City of California City – *Online only*

DEMONSTRATION:

Narcan® Training – Bakersfield Recovery Services
Eric Sanders and Andrew Laird

VOLUNTEER:

Community Action Partnership of Kern - CAPK®
Election Night Observers – Ballot Count

TOURS:

Bakersfield Police Department – Offices, Bomb Squad, Drone demonstration, K-9 demonstration
California Correctional Institution - Tehachapi
CAPK® Facilities
Kern County Sheriff's Central Receiving
Kern County Regional Crime Lab
Kern County Juvenile Hall
Kern County Sheriff's Office Property and Evidence Facility
Kern County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad, K-9 Unit, Air Support Unit, Negotiation Unit, and S.W.A.T.
North Kern State Prison
Ronald McDonald House

SPEAKERS:

Ryan Alsop – Chief Administrative Officer, County of Kern
Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services
Aaron Duncan – Chief, Kern County Fire Department
Albert Gaza – CAPK®
Peter Kang – Kern County Public Defender
Pam Singh – Kern County Public Defender
Donny Youngblood – Kern County Sheriff

INDICTMENTS:

The Grand Jury heard two Criminal Indictments as requested by the District Attorney's Office.

INQUIRIES:

Public Prisons in Kern County – per California Penal Code §919(b)

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED:

Thirty-four

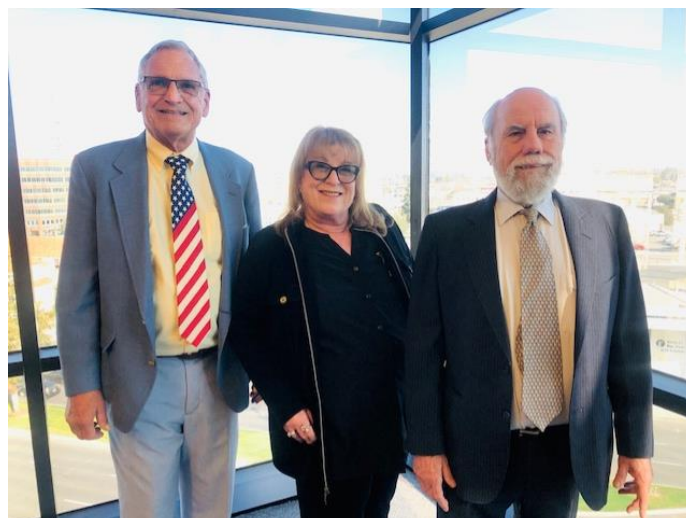
**ADMINISTRATION, AUDIT, AND
COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE**



CITIES AND JOINT POWERS COMMITTEE



**HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**



LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE



SPECIAL DISTRICTS COMMITTEE



SENIOR OFFICE SPECIALIST



RECORDING SECRETARY



**GRAND JURY MEMBERS
WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY**



RAY GRISSOM – US AIRFORCE

MICHAEL BRYANT – US NAVY

TOM PASEK – US AIRFORCE

GEORGINA ATCHISON – US ARMY, RETIRED

ALFREDO ROBLEDO – US MARINE CORPS, RETIRED

GARY CHAFFIN – US MARINE CORPS

JOE THORNTON – US MARINE CORPS

2022 - 2023 GRAND JURY DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

Gender	Male	Female	Total
Prospective, But Not Selected	1	0	1
Selected, First Term	10	9	19
Carry-over From Previous Term	6	4	10
Total	17	13	30

Age Range	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-up	Total
Prospective, But Not Selected	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Selected, First Term	0	0	2	1	5	8	3	19
Carry-over From Previous Term	0	0	0	0	2	4	4	10
Total	0	1	2	1	7	12	7	30

Race or Ethnicity	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latino	Natice Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	White	Total
Prospective, But Not Selected	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Selected, First Term	1	1	2	2	0	15	21
Carry-over From Previous Term	0	0	2	2	0	6	10
Total	1	1	4	4	0	22	32

Superior Court of California - County of Kern

2022 - 2023 Prospective Grand Jurors

Demographic Report - AGE

District	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-up	Total
1	0	0	1	2	2	6	3	14
2	0	1	0	0	3	3	1	8
3	0	1	1	1	1	4	4	12
4	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	6
5	0	1	2	0	4	0	1	8
Total	0	3	6	3	12	15	9	48

2022 - 2023 GRAND JURY DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-up	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	White	other	declined	Management/Business Professional/Administrative	Government/Public Service/Educator	Technical/Engineering/Skilled Labor	Sales/Customer Service/Office Support	Volunteer/Homemaker/Student	held over	Drawn to Serve	Not Selected
384	X							X							X				X					X	
386	X						X						X						X						X
383		X		X									X						X						X
355	X								X						X					X					X
369	X							X							X				X						X
356	X						X						X								X				X
366		X				X									X				X						X
382	X							X		X									X						X
363	X			X											X					X					X
380	X						X								X					X					X
372		X							X						X						X				X
357	X					X									X						X				X
359	X				X										X				X						X
385		X					X								X			X							X
360		X					X								X			X						X	

Applicant List

362		X					X						X				X					X	
379		X					X						X				X						X
378	X						X						X				X					X	
388	X					X							X				X					X	
368		X				X							X						X			X	
387		X					X				X						X					X	
376		X					X						X						X			X	
377	X						X			X							X					X	
381		X				X							X				X					X	
365	X				X								X							X		X	
373		X						X						X			X					X	
374	X						X						X					X				X	
375	X					X							X				X					X	
367	X							X					X					X				X	
371		X						X					X						X			X	
361		X			X						X						X						X
358		X			X						X								X				X
370		X			X						X		X				X						X
364	X					X							X				X						X
354		X			X					X										X			X
390	X				X						X		X					X				X	
H-389		X				X					X						X				X		X
H-391		X					X						X				X				X		X
H-392	X						X						X				X				X		X
H-393	X							X					X				X				X		X
400	X					X					X						X				X		
H-394		X				X					X						X				X		X
H-395	X							X					X				X				X		X

Applicant List

H-396	X								X						X					X			X		X
H-398	X							X					X						X				X		X
H-399		X							X						X				X				X		X
401		X						X					X						X					X	
H-397	X							X					X							X			X		X