County of Los Angeles
CIVIL GRAND JURY

FACT SHEET

(Please read carefully before completing the nomination form)

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

The primary function of the Civil Grand Jury is to investigate county, city, and joint-power agencies. This is a significant civil function. The Civil Grand Jury acts in a "watch-dog" function by examining, carefully and completely, the operations of various government agencies within Los Angeles County. The Civil Grand Jury cannot investigate state or federal agencies as they lie outside its jurisdiction. Part of the investigation of governmental agencies includes the ability to audit operations, accounts, and records of officers and departments within the agency under investigation. The Civil Grand Jury is further charged with investigating individual complaints from citizens. By statute, the Civil Grand Jury is required to inquire regarding the conditions and management of all public prisons within the County of Los Angeles.

To carry out this function, the Civil Grand Jury is divided into committees, each of which concentrates on certain areas under investigation. These committees visit facilities, meet with officials, and develop recommendations for improving government operations. Serving as a civil grand juror may require movement from one location to the next, and participating in group discussions, meetings, and presentations with people holding different opinions. The Audit, Citizens Complaints, and Jail Committees are considered essential because of the Civil Grand Jury's mandate to audit the county, examine complaints from individual citizens, and inspect the jails.

The Civil Grand Jury is required by law to submit a final report of its findings and recommendation to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than the end of its term. Agencies to which these findings/recommendations are directed are required to respond within 90 days.

CIVIL GRAND JURY – FULL TIME FOR ONE YEAR

Twenty-three citizens of Los Angeles County are sworn each July to serve as Civil Grand Jurors for 12 months. Membership on this body is a full-time in person commitment from Monday through Friday, at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., working from the Civic Center of Downtown Los Angeles. With the County's large population and complexity, members of the Civil Grand Jury must be prepared to devote a significant amount of time and effort to meet the needs of service.

It is essential that all Civil Grand Jurors attend civil grand jury sessions and decision-making discussions. However, the Grand Jury Administration may exercise discretion when emergencies and time off is needed.

Depending on the progress of the Jury, some members of the civil grand jury may not be required to report during the later part of their civil grand jury's term.

Anyone who is selected to serve on the Civil Grand Jury as a juror or an alternate must be fully cognizant of the time involved. Each prospective civil grand juror should sincerely and thoughtfully weigh any and all family, personal, and business obligations.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CIVIL GRAND JURY NOMINATION?

By law, a person is eligible if that person is: a citizen, 18 years of age or older, a resident of the County for at least one year, of good character, and knowledgeable of English. A person is not eligible if the person: has served on a Civil Grand Jury within the past 12 months, is an elected public official, or has been convicted of a felony.

HOW ARE CIVIL GRAND JURORS SELECTED?

Each year every Superior Court judge may nominate two persons that they deem qualified to serve as Civil Grand Jurors. Any interested citizen who wishes to be considered for nomination may submit an application before the deadline in November via email at grandjury@lacourt.ca.gov or by mail to the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Grand Jury Administration, 222 South Hill Street, Suite 670, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Applicants will be interviewed by the Grand Jurors Committee to determine each person's qualifications. The applications of qualified individuals are then made available to all Superior Court judges for possible nomination. In May, a drawing is conducted to randomly select 23 civil grand jurors and an appropriate number of alternates. A background check of the prospective civil grand jurors and alternates is conducted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

The 23 Civil Grand Jurors and Alternates are required to complete financial disclosure forms in compliance with California Government Code Sections 81000 – 91015.

Swearing-In for the Civil Grand Jurors is July 1 of each year (or the earliest day thereafter if July 1 falls on a weekend). Jurors are required to be present for the Swearing-In Ceremony in July to receive the Charge to the Civil Grand Jury. In addition, all Civil Grand Jurors must be available during the month of July as it is dedicated to organization and training.

CIVIL GRAND JURY FEES AND MILEAGE

Each member of the Civil Grand Jury is paid $80.00 per diem. Civil grand jurors are compensated for mileage at the current reimbursement rate of the County.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

If you have any questions about the nomination procedure, please contact:

Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Grand Jury Administration
222 South Hill Street, Suite 670
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 893-0411
Email: grandjury@lacourt.ca.gov
www.grandjury.co.la.ca.us