

San Joaquin County Grand Jury
2008/2009

June 15, 2009

Hon. George J. Abdallah, Jr.
Judge of the Superior Court
Advisor Judge to the San Joaquin County Grand Juries
The Superior Court
222 East Weber Avenue, Room 303
Stockton, California 95202

Hon. William J. Murray, Jr.
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
The Superior Court
222 East Weber Avenue, Room 303
Stockton, California 95202

Dear Judge Abdallah and Judge Murray:

I am honored to present the Final Report of the 2008/2009 San Joaquin County Grand Jury. The investigative reports that follow are fair, accurate and valuable to the citizens of San Joaquin County.

Citizens identified areas of interest to the Grand Jury by submitting written complaints. When a complaint was evaluated and approved for action, the matter was assigned to investigative committees. In addition to citizen complaints, the Grand Jury chose to investigate matters of concern on behalf of County residents. When there was a possible conflict of interest, jurors did not participate in the investigation, as noted in the reports.

Forty-six complaints were submitted by citizens this year and all were reviewed. We also continued with five investigations originating with the 2007/2008 Grand Jury and reports were drafted by a committee responsible for analyzing prior-year responses. Five complaints were not within the scope of grand jury authority. Four preliminary investigations were eventually closed. Twelve matters were assigned case numbers and the investigations continued. Two cases were submitted to the District Attorney and two were forwarded to the 2009/2010 Grand Jury for consideration.

Grand Jurors have an incredible responsibility and we served San Joaquin County at the highest level of integrity. When we focused on misconduct, we did so without contemplating what someone's response might be. People holding positions that influence the lives of others must be able to defend their conduct, apologize when necessary and take responsibility for their actions.

For example, the 2008/2009 Grand Jury Report cites the fundamental reformation that took place in two school districts as a result of key findings and the subsequent voter elections following the release of the 2007/2008 Grand Jury Report.

This Report also identifies several models of governmental efficiency and accountability within our community. I express my appreciation to city, county and school administrators who arranged site tours and presentations that provided insight into the history, operations and goals of their respective departments. Citizens of San Joaquin County can be proud of many trusted elected officials, qualified administrators and dedicated employees of city, county and school government.

I thank the residents of San Joaquin County who brought attention to issues they considered to be of concern to fellow citizens. I acknowledge those who gave time and testimony in their appearances before the Grand Jury.

I appreciate the assistance I received from Trisa Martinez, Judicial Secretary/Grand Jury Staff Secretary. Thank you, Chief Deputy District Attorney Scott Fichtner and County Counsel David Wooten for guidance and legal advice.

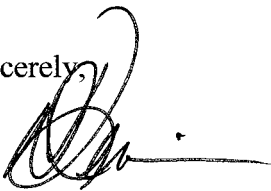
My primary responsibility was to make sure the Grand Jury was effective. To this end, I made every effort to preside with integrity and consideration for each member. To the diligent and committed members of this Grand Jury, thank you so much. I have enjoyed wonderful support and it was a pleasure to work with you.

It has been my privilege to serve as Grand Jury Foreman for two years. I utilized this incredible opportunity to gain further knowledge of our governments and the communities they serve.

The 2008/2009 San Joaquin County Grand Jury submits findings for consideration and respectfully anticipates implementation of recommendations designed to promote greater efficiency and accountability in government.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Court and the citizens of San Joaquin County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Renison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Renison
Foreman
2008/2009 San Joaquin County Grand Jury