



Superior Court of California County of Orange

NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND JURY APPLICANTS REACH 241 THE SECOND HIGHEST RECRUITMENT IN RECENT HISTORY OF THE COURT

Santa Ana - The Orange County Superior Court received 241 applications from prospective jurors to serve on the Orange County Grand Jury, the second highest turnout in recent history, announced Assistant Presiding Judge David T. McEachen, Chair of the Grand Jury Recruitment/Selection Committee. A significant number of applications were received from Orange County's racially diverse community.

Approximately 20% of the applicants are minorities: 25 Hispanic, 7 Asian, 6 Black, 4 Native American Indian and three who identified themselves other than Caucasian. The number of female applicants also increased to 33% percent. In previous years the average number of female applicants had been 26%.

"I'm delighted that we were able to encourage more people to apply for the Orange County Grand Jury, said Judge McEachen. "Having more applicants, provides a greater opportunity to increase the diversity of the grand jury."

The Court and the Grand Jury Recruitment Committee aggressively canvassed Orange County citizens to serve on the Grand Jury: 2,503 applications were mailed to prospective applicants, and flyers were distributed to 1,124 companies and 112 minority organizations." Judge McEachen added, "The Court is also grateful to members of the current grand jury, judges and the media for helping to inform the community about the grand jury selection process. More than 110 of the applicants indicated that they had learned of the recruitment from the newspaper, radio or television."

An orientation for grand juror applicants is scheduled for Thursday, January 31 at 6:00 p.m. in Department C-1, 2nd Floor, Central Justice Center, 700 Civic Center Drive, West, Santa Ana. Following the orientation, the first step in the selection process will begin. Each qualifying applicant will be interviewed by two Superior Court judges and background investigations will be conducted by the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Judges of the Superior Court will then submit the nominations of qualified applicants into a random drawing from which 19 individuals will be selected to serve on the Grand Jury.

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