

# FINAL REPORT



2011-2012

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

# FINAL REPORT



**2011-2012**

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
GRAND JURY**

# EDITORIAL COMMITTEE



*From left to right:* Roger Trussell, Sandra Munson, Sandra Shahan, Dianne Tolbert (Chair), Louis Chavez

The Editorial Committee acknowledges and thanks the following individuals for their hard work and invaluable assistance in the preparation of the Final Report of the 2011-2012 San Bernardino County Grand Jury.

Graphic Arts  
Cover Design  
Photographs  
Printing Services  
Typing/Preparation

Silvia Schreiber, Graphic Designer  
Silvia Schreiber, Graphic Designer  
Silvia Schreiber, Graphic Designer  
County Printing Services Personnel  
Melonee Vartanian, Grand Jury Assistant

# GRAND JURY



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

351 North Arrowhead Avenue, Room 200, Courthouse  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0243 • (909) 387-3820  
Fax (909) 387-4170

June 29, 2012

Honorable Ronald M. Christianson, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino  
303 West Third Street, Fourth Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0302

Dear Judge Christianson:

On behalf of the 2011-2012 Grand Jury, I am pleased to present this report to you and the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, and to the citizens of San Bernardino County.

This year there was a shift away from focusing primarily on County-run operations to include not only the County, but cities, special districts, and charter school operations. Throughout the course of this year we were continuously impressed with the knowledge and dedication of the vast majority of those we met.

Throughout the year we received and investigated complaints from citizens. Many of the complaints did not fall within the scope of the Grand Jury. However, in many instances we were able to help the complainant by providing information as to where to seek a resolution to their particular issue.

The Grand Jury unanimously approved a continuation and conclusion of a previously incomplete investigation regarding the City of Victorville. I am happy to report that this investigation is complete and included in this report.

Follow-up visits to several County agencies were conducted for the purpose of verifying that recommendations from previous Grand Juries had been followed and implemented. These visits are found in the Response Accountability section of this report.

Sadly during this term we lost a jury member unexpectedly. Lionel Ornelas was a thoughtful and caring person who was a contributing member of the Grand Jury. He will be missed.

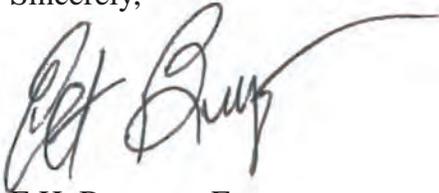
Honorable Ronald M. Christianson, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino  
June 29, 2012  
Page Two

Last June 26 citizen volunteers attended training on how to effectively become Grand Jurors. Beginning July 1, 2011, people began their service to the citizens of San Bernardino County. Throughout their term, they worked in harmony with each other and formed lasting friendships. The Jury as a whole was productive throughout the entire term.

It has been an honor to serve as the Foreman of this Jury. I cannot think of anything more gratifying to me throughout my entire professional career.

Finally, I would like to recognize Melonee Vartanian and Charles Umeda for their continuing dedication to the Grand Jury process. Without them, this report would not be possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E.H. Burgnon", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

E.H. Burgnon, Foreman  
2011-2012 Grand Jury

# 2011-2012 GRAND JURY SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

## OFFICERS:

Edward "Ted" Burgnon	✧	Foreman
Robert Deao	✧	Foreman Pro Tem
Marilyn J. Trombetta	✧	Secretary
Sandra Shahan	✧	Assistant Secretary
Darrell Freeland	✧	Sergeant-at-Arms
William Hutson	✧	Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

## MEMBERS:

Darrell Freeland	✧	Victorville
Dianne D. Tolbert	✧	Rialto
Edward "Ted" Burgnon	✧	Apple Valley
Ernest Armenta	✧	Rialto
Felix G. Diaz	✧	Victorville
Floydia Wilson	✧	Spring Valley Lake
Ignacio Nunez	✧	Victorville
James J. Coughlin	✧	Chino
Jon B. Haggard	✧	San Bernardino
Louis Chavez	✧	Daggett
Marilyn J. Trombetta	✧	Redlands
Robert Deao	✧	Rancho Cucamonga
Rodney Desmeuchet	✧	Rancho Cucamonga
Roger Trussell	✧	Hesperia
Sandra L. Munson	✧	Apple Valley
Sandra Shahan	✧	Rancho Cucamonga
William Hutson	✧	Rancho Cucamonga

## FORMER MEMBERS:

Eugene Boisvert	✧	Highland	✧	Resigned August 2011
Littleton K. Smith III	✧	Highland	✧	Resigned October 2011
Lionel Ornelas	✧	Colton	✧	Passed Away November 2011
Randi Kennedy	✧	San Bernardino	✧	Resigned February 2012

## ADMINISTRATION:

Presiding Judges	✧	Douglas M. Elwell
	✧	Ronald M. Christianson
Legal Advisor	✧	Charles J. Umeda
Grand Jury Assistant	✧	Melonee A. Vartanian

# 2011-2012 GRAND JURY SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY



*Back row from left to right:*  
Jon Haggard, Ernesto Armenta, Robert Deao, Darrell Freeland, Ted Burgnon (foreman)

*Center row from left to right:*  
Sandra Munson, Felix Diaz, Louis Chavez, William Hutson, Ignacio Nunez, Roger Trussell, James Coughlin

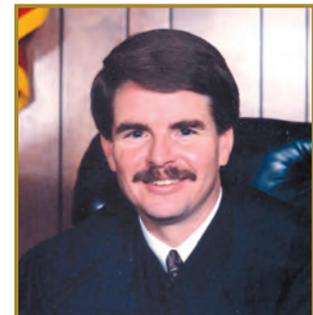
*Front row from left to right:*  
Marilyn Trombetta, Sandra Shahan, Rodney Desmeuchet, Floydia Wilson, Dianne Tolbert



Honorable  
Douglas M. Elwell



Melonee Vartanian, Grand Jury Assistant and  
Charlie Umeda, Grand Jury Legal Advisor



Honorable  
Ronald M. Christianson

*A special thank you to the **Social Committee** for making the Grand Jury's year of service pleasant and enjoyable:*



*Back row: Darrell Freeland, Melonee Vartanian, Ted Burgnon  
Front row: Rodney Desmeuchet, Sandra Munson (chair), Sandra Shahan, Dianne Tolbert, Louis Chavez  
Not pictured: Ernesto Armenta*



*The **Historian/Librarian Committee** worked diligently behind the scenes keeping the history and library of the Grand Jury in order:*



Rodney Desmeuchet (chair), Sandra Munson

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 2011-2012 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

<b>CITIES/SPECIAL DISTRICTS COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
City of San Bernardino, Citation Appeal Process .....	2
City of San Bernardino, Economic Development Agency, Neighborhood Stabilization Program.....	4
City of Victorville .....	8
Verdemont Community Center .....	9
<b>COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>COUNTY COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>12</b>
Devore Animal Shelter .....	14
Fleet Management Department .....	16
Grand Jury Work Environment .....	20
San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors .....	23
<b>HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Department of Human Services, Public Integrity Division, Electronic Benefit Transfer Card Fraud .....	28
<b>LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>31</b>
Detention Centers .....	32
Disaster Preparedness.....	70
Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies .....	78
San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner, Scientific Investigations Division .....	80
<b>RESPONSE ACCOUNTABILITY .....</b>	<b>93</b>
Public Health Department .....	94
San Manuel Amphitheater.....	96
San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner, Public Administrator and Department of Aging and Adult Services, Public Guardian.....	98