



# EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2018 - 2019

## FINAL REPORT JUNE 2019

HONORABLE WARREN CURT STRACENER, SUPERVISING JUDGE

### JURORS

TOM SIMPSON, FOREMAN

ROGER BERGER

RITA CLAYTON

RICHARD COFFIN

JACK CUMMINGS

BRYAN DILTS

DAVID HULME

BILL KNOX

EDMOND JACOBY

JIM LAUTH

PETE MARTY

MARY ANNE MINNICK

THOM ORTH

REBECCA REED

GATHA WILLYARD

COLLEEN YOUNG

VICKI YORTI



BACK ROW: BRYAN DILTS, EDMOND JACOBY, RICHARD COFFIN, DAVID HULME, JACK CUMMINGS  
FRONT ROW: TOM SIMPSON, BILL KNOX, MARY ANNE MINNICK, RITA CLAYTON, PETE MARTY, COLLEEN YOUNG,  
GATHA WILLYARD, SOPHIA, JIM LAUTH

INSETS: ROGER BERGER, THOM ORTH, REBECCA REED, VICKI YORTI



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June 2019

Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury, Presiding Judge  
California Superior Court, County of El Dorado

Judge Kingsbury,

This 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury Final Report embodies the collaborative effort of committed El Dorado County citizens with whom I am proud to have been associated once again. I commend each juror for their individual contributions and collective success.

Yet, any accomplishment associated with this report should be tempered with the knowledge that part way through our term, the number of jurors declined to a precariously low level. For a brief time, it appeared we might not be able to complete our yearlong tenure. Fortunately, former grand jurors came forward to serve, bringing us close to a full complement; a testament to the dedication, commitment and resilience of grand jurors, past and present.

The relatively low number of reports this year was precipitated by fluctuations in the number of jurors. However, that does not detract from the import or quality of any individual report. Each was investigated and prepared with diligence and resolve.

Citizen applications to serve on the Grand Jury have declined during the past several years, even though the Superior Court staff continues to diligently recruit. Every Grand Jury I have been a part of has discussed recruitment possibilities. Members of this jury have undertaken proactive actions that will hopefully prove fruitful. Half of this year's jury have combined with several former grand jurors to restart the El Dorado County Grand Jurors Association with intent to re-energize recruitment efforts.

Once again, Senior Deputy County Counsel Paula Frantz, Keely Cleland in the Auditor-Controller's Office and Superior Court Administrative Analyst Suzanne Thurman provided indispensable knowledge and assistance to ensure the Grand Jury functioned smoothly week after week. Future Grand Juries are assured success with the assistance of these dedicated individuals.

Thank you to Grand Jury Supervising Judge Warren Stracener for recognizing that the requests I made will continue to benefit future grand juries.

Serving on the civil Grand Jury continues to be a personally rewarding experience. It is truly a thing worth doing.

I look forward to serving again,

*Tom Simpson*

Tom Simpson, Foreperson

cc: Honorable Warren C. Stracener

# The Superior Court

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF EL DORADO  
1354 JOHNSON BOULEVARD, STE. 2  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150  
(530) 573-3064 - FAX (530) 544-6532

SUZANNE N. KINGSBURY  
PRESIDING JUDGE

May 22, 2019

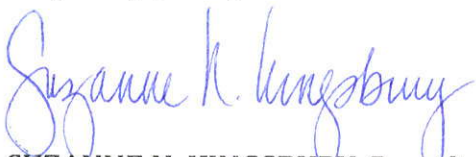
To The Members of the 2018/2019 Grand Jury,

On behalf of the El Dorado County Superior Court, I would like to thank each of you for volunteering your time, your intellect, and your energy in order to serve our county as members of this year's civil grand jury. The importance of the civil grand jury cannot be understated. Grand jurors examine the efficacy of government operations and make recommendations concerning changes which can be made to insure that public funds are being expended in a transparent and cost effective manner. Grand jurors examine the condition of county facilities, including jails and lockups, to insure that they are being properly maintained, and that they are operated as required by law. Grand jurors audit financial and transactional records maintained by city and county governments and special districts in order to determine if there are irregularities. Grand jurors also investigate citizen complaints which are lodged during their term.

All of these duties, plus many more which I have not enumerated, require a considerable amount of teamwork and effort. Grand jurors must examine complicated records and books, take statements under oath from percipient witnesses and then must 1) make findings of fact, and 2) make recommendations for actions to be taken to rectify any deficiencies or problems. All of these tasks are done in an unbiased and professional manner, with a view toward improving how our government carries out the people's business.

You are each to be commended for your willingness to serve on our civil grand jury. If it were not for people like you, our system would be far less transparent and efficient. The citizens of El Dorado County, and the court, owe you a debt of gratitude.

Very truly yours,



SUZANNE N. KINGSBURY, Presiding Judge