

JEM NEWSLETTER

September 2016

JEM LEADERSHIP UPDATE

We would like to thank Shana Simpson for all of her work on behalf of JEM. As some of you know, Shana recently transferred from Jury to the Civil Division in Sacramento Superior Court. She resigned her JEM position, with regret, in July. Shana's contributions to JEM, particularly in hosting last year's conference, will not soon be forgotten.

Joe Yniquez, Stanislaus, has stepped in (again) to fill the vacancy. We appreciate Joe's leadership and willingness to pitch in to fill this need. Daniel Tapia, Kern, has been appointed Vice President and Pat Kilkenny, San Francisco, has been appointed Secretary.

Elections will be coming in October. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please watch your e-mail for the nomination forms. In the meantime, please feel free to contact any of us with questions or suggestions. Please help us to make JEM the best it can be!

JEM Executive Committee Members

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| President | Joe Yniquez | Stanislaus | Joe.Yniquez@stanct.org |
| Vice President | Daniel Tapia | Kern | Daniel.Tapia@kern.courts.ca.gov |
| Treasurer | Sherry Spears | Fresno | sspears@fresno.courts.ca.gov |
| Secretary | Pat Kilkenny | San Francisco | pkilkenny@sftc.org |
| Members at Large | | | |
| Large County | Tamara Davis | Santa Clara | tdavis@scscourt.org |
| Large County | Catherine McCoy | San Diego | Catherine.mccoy@sdcourts.ca.gov |
| Large County | Robyn Samuelson | Orange | rsamuelson@occourts.org |
| Large County | Joe Diaz | Riverside | Jose.Diaz@riverside.courts.ca.gov |
| Large County | Karen Wilmes | Sonoma | kwilmes@sonomacourt.org |
| Large County | Vacancy | | |
| Small County | Rose Hamblin | Kings | rhamblin@kings.courts.ca.gov |
| Small County | Kim Walker | Menocino | kim.walker@mendocino.courts.ca.gov |
| Small County | Vacancy | | |

A SUMMONS FOR YOU: SAVE THE DATE JEM CONFERENCE 2017

The JEM Annual Conference will be held in April 2017. The exact date and location will be announced soon. You can expect a lively conference, including JSI and Xerox User Group Meetings, discussion of hot topics in jury land, and, best of all, the chance to network with your colleagues.

If you have not attended a conference before, please don't miss this one. The 2016 Conference was a huge success...you can read all about it on page 2.



2016 CONFERENCE SUMMARY

BY SHERRY SPEARS, FRESNO

If you were not able to attend the JEM Conference in Sacramento that was held April 28th and 29th, you missed a good one. The first JEM Conference since 2012 in San Diego had nearly 50 JEM members from 31 counties and from as far away as Missouri.

Thursday morning started off with "Transitioning to a Postcard Summons" presented by Robyn Samuelson, Orange County. The postcard summons in Orange County directs jurors to their eJuror system to submit excuse and disqualification requests, postpone their service, and complete their juror questionnaire, including collection of an e-mail address. In just the first year, Orange County experienced a savings of \$137,000 by moving to the postcard. Amazing!

Next on the agenda were Meredith Bostian, Sacramento, and Sandi Willett,

JSI Systems Inc., with a presentation of how to prepare for a jury challenge. Each offered her extensive knowledge base as well as discussing issues courts have faced in jury challenges.

After that the attending vendors were introduced: Jury Systems, Inc., Xerox, Courthouse Technologies, Multi-Business Systems, Staples, ATI, Sonant and ARG. All vendors had tables set up outside the conference room and were available to answer questions.

The "User Group Breakout Sessions" were held for the rest of the afternoon with hosting vendors JSI and Xerox. It was a chance to find out about new products, to network, and to ask questions.

On Friday the day began at the Sacramento Superior Court with a welcoming from Hon. David Brown. Judge Brown regularly welcomes jurors who

report to the court and has a genuine passion for inspiring jurors. Following this, Sacramento Sheriff's Department Deputy Eric Brown talked to us about emergency and security situations that can occur in the courthouse.

Before the conference ended at noon on Friday, there was time to have an open discussion among the members, a rare chance to discuss jury related topics and issues with such a large number of jury folk from so many different courts. And we were able to honor one of our own when Sabra Forbes of Solano County received the JEM Achievement Award for her many contributions to JEM.

A big shout out to Sacramento Superior Court – President Shana Simpson, Vice President Amy Malone and Meredith Bostian, who is also a past JEM President, for hosting this conference, what an incredible success it was!

JURY SURVEY 2016 RESULTS

BY KRISTEN GREENAWAY, SENIOR ANALYST, JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*It has been more than 0 years since the Judicial Council last surveyed the courts to learn what is happening in the area of jury and to hear how we can better assist you in your efforts to improve jury service. We had an almost 100% response rate to *Jury Survey 2016*—which is fantastic. Thank you all! We will be sending out a summary report, but some of the highlights from the survey include:*

- The majority of respondents have Integrated Voice Response (66%), Integrated Web Response (67%), and barcode scanners (85%). A small number of courts reported having a self-service check-in option (19%— kiosks only, no tablets) and SMS/text messaging (16%);
- Most responded that they summon prospective jurors to all county locations from a countywide list (75%);
- Only slightly more than half reported that there is an assembly room in all locations to which jurors are summoned (56%);
- The majority of respondents reported spending 30 minutes or less on juror orientation (90%—with it fairly evenly split between 0-15 min (46%) and 16-30 min (44%));
- 25% responded that they allow prospective jurors a reporting window on either side of reporting date to appear for service;
- 50% report "always" using a script for juror orientation;
- 74% reported using a letter format juror summons;
- Juror Code of Conduct was the #1 area where you would like to see more educational resources made available to jurors. This was followed closely by social media and trial process materials;
- And many of you commented that the juror orientation film is "outdated." Yes, we agree! We will keep you posted.

As we move forward, your observations and input will help identify where we can best focus our energy and resources in the area of jury. I appreciate your perspective as you are the ones who work directly with jurors—in a very real sense, you are the face of the court for millions of Californians.

EXCUSE OF THE MONTH

For your chuckling pleasure...A juror in San Francisco recently claimed that he could not serve because of his need to provide care for — wait for it — a gorilla! To support his request, his employer, a veterinarian, submitted the following letter.

"Bob has been summoned for jury duty for April 20. He is a primary caregiver of a 43-year-old primate (gorilla, Koko) whom I am the primary veterinarian for. There are no other caregivers that can fill in for Bob to be available for jury duty. Koko has significant medical issues that need attention multiple times daily, in addition to the daily feeding and other regular care needs. I ask that he be excused from jury duty, as an extension would not be suitable." Needless to say, Bob was not excused.

If you have items that fall in to the "you can't make this stuff up category," please send to Pat Kilkenny, pkilkenny@sftc.org, so they can be included in future newsletters.