



# Superior Court of California County of Orange ***News Release***

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## **Court Extends Grand Jury Application Deadline to March 5**

**Santa Ana, CA** – Orange County Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez has extended the application deadline to serve on the Orange County Grand Jury to Friday, March 5.

“We worked to provide the ability of Grand Jurors to work from their homes most of the time. We also established a physically distant work environment in the Court to minimize exposure to the virus and make it safe for our seated Grand Jurors when they chose to come into the courthouse. The health and safety of our Grand Jurors, our employees and our community are our top priorities,” Judge Hernandez said.

“I encourage Orange County residents to take advantage of this exciting opportunity to serve our community beginning in July,” she added. “It is one of the best opportunities to get an insider’s view of local government and to improve the lives of your fellow citizens by becoming a grand juror.”

The Grand Jury panel serves as a public watchdog over local government entities, investigates citizen complaints, evaluates conditions at our county’s jails, and issues indictments for serious crimes. The panel prepares and publishes reports which include recommendations for improvement of local government agencies. The appropriate government agency must respond to the report in writing.

The final selection of the 19-member panel is achieved by a random drawing of 25 to 30 candidates who are nominated and confirmed by Superior Court judges to proportionally represent the five supervisorial districts in Orange County. A committee of judges reviews applications and interviews qualified candidates.

Qualifications to serve on the Grand Jury include being an Orange County resident, a United States citizen, and at least 18 years old. Grand jurors receive a \$50 per day stipend, mileage reimbursement, and onsite parking at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana where the 19-member panel meets. The panel sets its own schedule, which typically includes working 30 to 35 hours per week, observing the 13 Court holidays, and taking two additional weeks off during the term.

An application form and additional information are available on the Grand Jury website at [www.ocgrandjury.org](http://www.ocgrandjury.org), or by calling the Grand Jury Hotline at 657-622-6747.

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