



# The SB Civil Grand Jury THE PUBLIC'S WATCHDOG

Presented by: Stan Roden

Two Mondays: January 8 and 15, 2024

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church  
556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

805-967-6030  
vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org

Would you like to see local government operate efficiently or effectively and be transparent and accountable? If so, you may wish to take this in-depth course centered on the *Santa Barbara Civil* (“Watchdog”) *Grand Jury* system.

We will explore the history of the grand jury, dating back to the 12th century, and look at its evolution in both England and the colonies, as well as its incorporation into the US Constitution. We will distinguish between the criminal accusation function, still widely used in federal and many state courts, and the local civil watchdog function.

The grand jury is an arm of the Superior Court. It has the *legal authority* and, in some cases, the *duty* to analyze and report on the management and operations of all Santa Barbara County agencies. To deeply explore local hot-button legal, political, and social justice issues, the class will read a few 2022-23 Grand Jury reports and local government responses to them. Participants will be better prepared to follow complex local political debates in 2024.



PLEASE REVIEW THE STATEMENT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FLYER REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS.

Preferred registration deadline\*: January 2, 2024

\*Early enrollment helps us with our planning; also, those who register by the preferred deadline will be given priority in case of over-enrollment.

## Enrollment form: The SB Civil Grand Jury: The Public’s Watchdog

Mondays, January 8 and 15, 2024

VISTAS members \$30; non-members \$45

➤ **EITHER pay online** on our website by secure credit card through PayPal:  
<https://www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/current-courses>

➤ **OR mail this form** and your check to: VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc.  
P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara CA 93121

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*It is understood that attendance is limited to those who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.*

**Stan Roden J.D.** is a retired civil trial lawyer with a background that includes criminal defense, two terms as Santa Barbara County District Attorney, mediator, and SB Legal Aid volunteer. He served on the CA Fair Political Practices Commission, taught numerous courses at local schools (SBCC, UCSB Extension, Antioch University), and served on many community boards and committees, most recently focused on criminal justice reform, environmental sustainability, and climate change.



Stan is uniquely qualified to teach this course. He served on the 2022–2023 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury and as chair of the Criminal Justice Committee. This Grand Jury issued seven reports, four of which involved five deaths in custody. Each included detailed findings and recommendations for improved criminal justice system operations for those suffering from mental illness and/or substance abuse.

### IMPORTANT COVID-19 POLICY

The health and safety of our attendees and their families are of utmost importance to us. **Accordingly, we are limiting attendance to those who are fully vaccinated.** Proof of vaccinations and boosters (digital Covid-19 Vaccination Card or a photo of your printed card) must be sent to our business manager via email ([vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org](mailto:vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org)) or text (805-967-6030). This needs to be done only once—your proof of vaccination will remain valid for all VISTAS events. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

## VISTAS Winter/Spring 2024 Calendar

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE; for up-to-date information, visit our website ([VistasLifelongLearning.org](http://VistasLifelongLearning.org)) frequently!**

Course / Event	Date(s)	Time	Venue
VISTAS Winter Social	Sunday, February 4	1:30 pm	Music Academy of the West
Fiction Book Club	3rd Thursday monthly	10:00 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Monday Nonfiction Book Club	4th Monday monthly	1:30 pm	Via Zoom
<b>The SB Civil Grand Jury: The Public's Watchdog</b>	<b>Mon. Jan. 8 and 15</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Bethany Congreg. Church</b>
Not Just a Pretty Place: Science at SB Botanic Garden	Tues. Jan. 9	1:00 pm	SB Botanic Garden
Legendary Lovers in Opera	Tues. Jan. 23, 30, Wed. Feb. 7	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
The Hapsburgs	Thurs. Jan. 25 and Feb. 1	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
The Five Good Emperors	Mon. Feb. 5	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Celebrating 100 Years of the Granada Theatre	Mon. Feb. 12	1:00 pm	Grenada Theatre
Whose Land Is It, Anyway?	Tues. Feb. 13, 20, 27, Mar. 5	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
The Climate Crisis: Where We Are, What We Can Do	Weds. Feb. 21, 28, Mar. 6	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
<i>The Lafayette Escadrille</i> and <i>The Millionaires' Unit</i>	Thurs. Feb. 29, Mar. 7	1:00 pm	Valle Verde Theater
Conserving the Gaviota Coast, in Pictures and Stories	Mon. March 4	9:30 am	Bethany Cong. Church
Annual Short Story Discussion Group, Section 1	Wed. Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27	1:00 pm	Valle Verde Social Room
Annual Short Story Discussion Group, Section 2	Thurs. Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28	1:00 pm	Montecito Covenant Church
Heroes & Rogues, Series 5	Mon. Mar. 11, 18, 25	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
American Folk Music Revival of the 20th Century	Mon. April 1, 8, 15, 22	1:00 pm	Bethany Congreg. Church
String Quartets in the Vienna in Beethoven's Time	Wed. April 3, 10, 17	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
Will China (Still) Eat Our Lunch?	Thurs. April 4	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
<i>Sinkable: Adventures with Shipwrecks</i>	Wed. April 24	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
The Golden Age of the Broadway Musical	Fri. May 3, 10, 17	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
Artistic Renderings of Human Body / Women Artists	Mon. May 6	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
The Magic Behind TV Music	Wed. May 8	1:00 pm	Bethany Congreg. Church
13,000 Years of Local Maritime History / Whales	Mon. May 13	9:30 am	SB Maritime Museum
The Immigration Conundrum	Wed. May 15, 23	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church