

U.S. GRAND JURY SYSTEM, the 95% effective Government Graft Stopper
Invite All Student Councils to Sponsor it for fun. Also refer this to other Anti-Graft Crusaders.
By Atty. Marlowe Camello, Email: mcamello@verizon.net

The most powerful and proven effective anti-graft device ever created is the **U.S. Grand Jury system**. U.S. President Thomas Jefferson said: "**The Jury is the only anchor ever yet imagined by man that can hold a government to the principles of its constitution.**" Anyone known of having committed a serious crime in the U.S. can be assured that he will get accused in court even if he may be the President. This Jury is very easy to make. Visit the **4 simple steps**, and **print** the "**To Do Checklist**" on pages 3, 4, and 5, below as a guide to create your local grand jury.

Juries are excellent unifiers of people. Juries will solve Muslim-Christian conflict; will unite them **unknowingly** like the way Muslims and Christians are **unified** in the U.S. "**Unknowingly**" because the U.S. has no law to force people to unite. Juries unite people automatically". **How?** By non-discriminatory blinded selection of jurors through lottery of their names from voters list regardless of their color, creed, tribe, ethnicity, rich or poor, big or small, short or tall, ugly or beautiful, weak or powerful, fatty or skinny, man or woman, and those in between, to sit together in court to decide in justice. They are given instruction on the law, shown evidence at the trial, then given freedom to decide by themselves with no judge participation. Discrimination in justice is the basic cause that corrupts people and government. Fair justice system in the U.S. through juries is what made it a stable country for over 226 years now. With Grand juries, no grafters or tyrants can "survive" outside of jail. Graft and corruption will never stop if the people are not able to send grafters to jail. The Grand Jury system is the way. Let us adopt it and stop the graft.

Before going through the enactment steps, **READ FIRST** the Jury Diagram in the web site below to learn fast and visualize how this powerful anti-graft device operates:

<http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/x-jury-diagram.pdf>

The steps below describe the procedures on how to enact the U.S. type "**Grand Jury & Trial Jury Systems**", hereinafter named in brief as "**GJ&TJ-S**" by using the procedures of Republic Act 6735:

STEP 1: Prepare and file a Petition, in compliance with Republic Act 6735, Section 13(a), before your City Council to seek the establishment and approval en toto (meaning "as is") of your proposed **GJ&TJ-S**. The petition must be signed by no less than 1,000 resident-citizens. The form of your petition can be downloaded and printed from the web site at:

<http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/14-mr-form-1-petition.pdf>

Attach to your Petition the following documents:

1. A copy of the proposed **GJ&TJ-S** Law. Download and print its provisions from the web site at:

<http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/mr-law.pdf>

2. A translation of the GJ&TJ-S Law into the Filipino Language. Please find in your city a good English-Filipino translator for this purpose. You will also use this again in Step 3, if you will be forced to embark on Step 2.

3. A format of the City Ordinance indicating its "Notice of Action" on the Petition. Download and print this form from the web site at:

<http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/mr-format.pdf>

4. The Acknowledgment by the City Council through its Secretary the filing of the Petition titled: "RECEIPT OF PETITION". Download and print this form from the web site at:

<http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/mr-receipt.pdf>

Promptly after filing the above Petition with the City Council, fill in with the name of your leading crusader in the news letter in the web site below and then publish it in a popular news paper in your city. This publication will also put pressure on the City Council and the Mayor to act on the Petition one way or the other:

<http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/15-mr-publication.pdf>

STEP 2: Exercise the “Power of Initiative - Upon receipt of the notice of no favorable action, which is most likely, is received from the City Council of Marawi within 30 days from date of filing the Petition in Step 1, proceed immediately **on the following day** with another round of gathering signatures as required in RA 6735, Sec. 5(d), the 3%, 10% number of signatures which means at least 3% of the registered voters per Barangay and 10% of the total registered voters in the entire City of Marawi are to be obtained. Petition Form in Step 3, is your guide in doing this. This second round of collecting signatures should be completed within 90 days from the date the non-favorable action is known from the City Council of Marawi. The forms to use in gathering signatures can be downloaded and printed from the web sites below. The forms are self-explanatory. Take all 3 forms to, and jointly accomplish with, the Election Registrar. Please read them carefully:

- (a) <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/16-mr-form-2-ss.pdf>
- (b) <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/17-mr-form-3-lr.pdf>
- (c) <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/18-mr-form-4-rc.pdf>

Do the campaigning along with the signature gathering activity.

STEP 3: As soon as the required number of signatures are collected in Step 2, prepare another Petition and file it with the COMELEC. The Petition Form can be downloaded and printed from the web site below. Also make corrections if needed:

<http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/19-mr-form-5-petition.pdf>

Supporting documents to be attached to the Petition are:

- (a) Separate English text of the proposed Jury Law. Download and print at:
<http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/mr-law.pdf>
- (b) Separate Filipino translation of the proposed Jury Law;
- (c) Signature sheets in Step 2(a) above;
- (d) Election Registrar’s Verification Certificate in Step 2(c) above.

Basically, the Petition is asking, among others, the COMELEC to issue an Order:

- (a) To publish the Petition and the proposed jury law both in the Filipino language and in the English language at least twice in a news paper with a general and local circulation in Marawi within 30 days from its determination of the sufficiency of the Petition.
- (b) To set the election date for the approval by the voters the adoption of the proposed Jury System Law.

STEP 4: Campaign and go to the polls on the voting date and vote “yes” in your ballot. That’s it!

“If the proposition is approved by a majority of the votes cast, it shall take effect 15 days after certification by the Commission (COMELEC) as if affirmative action thereon had been made by the local legislative body and local executive concerned. If it fails to obtain said number of votes, the propositions is considered defeated.” RA 6735, Sec. 14.

<p>The “TO DO CHECK LIST” below is your “GPS” that will guide your secretary in working your way to create your Grand Jury law. You will never forget where to continue each time you come back from a break.</p>

DO CHECK LIST (Chronologically arranged)

Print this check list but use this online check list to retrieve forms you need by clicking the web sites. It is advisable to retain a lawyer to enact the Local Jury System via RA 6735, the Initiative Process, Select a lawyer who is not a public official. The Grand Jury works effectively when administered purely by the private sector.

- STEP 1:**
- Prepare First Petition to be filed with City Council - Petition Form is at: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/14-mr-form-1-petition.pdf>
 - Secure 1,000 signatures on above petition;
 - Attach to petition a photocopy of the proposed Jury Systems Law to petition upon filing with City Council. Locate it at: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/mr-law.pdf>
 - Attach blank form of Receipt of Petition. Place on top of petition. Form is at: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/mr-receipt.pdf>
 - Attach blank form for "Notice of Action". Place it behind the "Receipt". Locate form at: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/mr-format.pdf>
 - Attach a copy of the Jury Diagram. Place behind "Notice of Action". Print diagram at: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/x-jury-diagram.pdf>. This will be located on top of the petition.
 - If possible, secure (or bind) all documents you are filing with City Council in a 3-hole Ring Binder, may be around 4 inch thick.
 - Make your File Record. Be sure to have a photocopy of every document you filed with the City Council. You must have the original of the signed "Receipt" upon filing. Also secure your own your own copy in a ring binder.
 - Promptly, if possible within 3 days after filing with city council, publish the news letter on: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/15-mr-publication.pdf> . with a popular newspaper in your city. Put the name of your representative in the Petition also as the name of the leader in your news publication.
 - If Petition is approved by the City Council and by the Mayor, publish the Notice of Approval in a popular newspaper in the community. Then seek for early implementation by the officials and judicial authorities of your city.
 - If Petition is disapproved by the City Council, serve notice to City Council in compliance with Section 13(b)of RA 6735 that you are exercising your Power of the Initiative. The notice form, "MR-Notice Form" is located at: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/mr-notice.pdf>

This Notice should be served to City Council if no favorable action within 30 days after presentation of your petition to the City Council or as soon as "Notice of No Action" is received from the City Council.

STEP 2: TIME TO DEAL WITH THE COMELEC (Commission on Election).

After serving the “MR-Notice Form” to the City Council, perform the following:

- Collect the required number of signatures required in Section 5 of RA 6735. Use signature gathering form. Locate and familiarize with the forms at:
 - (a) <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/16-mr-form-2-ss.pdf>
 - (b) <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/17-mr-form-3-lr.pdf>
 - (c) <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/18-mr-form-4-rc.pdf>Read the forms carefully. They are self-explanatory. Take all 3 forms to, and jointly accomplish with, the Election Registrar. The overall percentage of signatures required for your entire city is 10% of the registered voters in the last election and the signature of at least 3% from each and all barangay districts in your city must be obtained. Even if you secure more than 10% for the entire city but if anyone barangay district has less than 3% signatures obtained therefrom will not satisfy the legal percentage signature requirements of RA 6735. The collection of signatures must be completed within 90 days after acquiring notice of denial on your First Petition by your City Council.

- STEP 3:**
- Prepare and file your Second Petition with the COMELEC. The Petition Form is located at: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/19-mr-form-5-petition.pdf>. File both English language text and Filipino language text. Inquire with local Election Registrar whether to file your Petition in his local office or with COMELEC Manila.

- Attach to your Petition the following documents:
 - English text of your proposed Jury Law. Secure its copy from web site at: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/mr-law.pdf> to be attached to the English language Petition;
 - Filipino text of the proposed Jury Law to be attached to the Filipino Petition text. Kindly obtain the translation services of an expert both in English and Filipino languages.
 - Local Election Registrar’s Verification Certificate. The form to use is at: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/18-mr-form-4-rc.pdf>
 - The signed signature gathering sheets. The form used to sign must be the form at: <http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/16-mr-form-2-ss.pdf> The numbering of pages should be continuous beginning with the Election Registrar’s Verification Certificate up to the last signed signature sheet.
 - A copy of your First Petition before the City Council.
 - A copy of the “Notice of Denial” by the City Council on your first petition.
 - A copy of your “MR-Notice Form” to the City Council, Your notice to exercise your Power of Initiative after your Petition was denied.

- Again, make and keep a complete File of your Petition with the COMELEC.
- Obtain and follow further instructions with the COMELEC. Keep a good rapport with Local Election Registrar and with Manila COMELEC staff members.

STEP 4: Campaign for the approval of the Proposed Jury Law and ask them to vote “Yes” on the election day as scheduled by the COMELEC.

Pointers and arguments in favor of Jury Adoption:

- You, the people in your city, shall become the real boss and master over your public servants in accordance with Article 2, Section 1, of the Constitution. **You become enforcers of all other laws, rules and regulations through your Grand Juries.**
- No more compadre/comadre system in Justice because you, the people, shall become the Super Deciding Authority in the secret investigation, indictment, trial and conviction of crime offenders. Judges will supervise and guide you how to perform your job as a juror but they will not participate in making your decision.
- With Grand Juries that operate secretly and whose members cannot be easily identified, they will not be scared to accuse in court any corrupt powerful high official in your city.
- By adopting the Jury Systems, Grand Juries will no longer need to ask for approval from city authorities to investigate and accuse in court a corrupt high official.
- Bribe givers will be exempt from prosecution so that they can report and testify against public officials and employees who took bribes from them. This policy will scare government officials from taking bribes and improve government efficiency.
- Grand Jury secret investigations and accusations in court against any powerful corrupt officials and other serious crime offenders will definitely reduce stealing of government funds and more savings and income for the government.
- More lawyers will help victims of crimes committed by city authorities such as in police or army brutality crimes and claim of prisoners or detainees for inhumane confinement in inhabitable jail cells . Lawyers will be allowed to take such cases on contingency basis up to 40% on claims of victims as high as P500,000.00 pesos in award of damages (Article III, Section 1(d)(5)(b)).
- Juries will speed up disposition of cases in less than a year instead of 5 to 15 years under the present solo judge system.
- A GJ is so powerful that it can secretly investigate and indict for obstruction of justice any high corrupt officials who interfere in justice affairs. Browse the web site at:
<http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/grand-jury-power.pdf>
- Grand Juries will simply get cases for investigation from tipsters by advertisement. The GJ tipsters advertisement form can be secured at:
<http://www.the-filipino-people.com/support-files/gj-9-whistle-blowers.pdf>