

HONORARY CONSUL

Submitted by Deb Preston, Marin

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I have a juror here who holds the title of Honorary Consul, Embassy of Guatemala. He is a US citizen. He has shown me a letter from 1991 (!!) that states:

“In accordance with Article 58 of the Vienna Convention of Consular Relations . . . honorary consular officers shall not be amenable to the judicial or administrative authorities’ of the receiving state . . .”

Does anyone know if I should excuse this person?? Thanks.

1	Alison Blackwell	San Diego does not excuse for this reason. Last year we received a similar request to be excused from a prospective juror identifying themselves as Honorary Consul of Finland. Our legal folks found that the Vienna Convention is not binding domestic law. Further, status as honorary consul is not a basis for excusing you from jury duty under Sections 203 or 204 of the Code of Civil Procedure. (CCP 204(a) states, in part, “No eligible person shall be exempt from service as a trial juror...by reason of occupation...”)
2	Lupe Castaneda	Santa Clara County's response would be the same as San Diego .
3	Morgan Halencak	I don't believe Mariposa has ever dealt with this particular issue.
4	Nellie Jaime	San Bernardino would not excuse. I would send them and the letter to the judge and let the judge decide.