

Chapter 1 : Jury Service @ The Philadelphia Courts - First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Minnie Dix has compiled an impressive list of excuses you can use to escape jury duty. REASONS WHY I CAN'T SERVE ON JURY DUTY offers the crazy, the silly, the world's biggest lie and the impossible reasons for not doing your civic duty.

Financial arrangements Being called for jury service If you are called for jury service you will usually have to serve at a criminal trial, but you can be called to serve at a civil trial. Criminal trials take place in either the High Court or the Sheriff Court depending on the seriousness of the crime. Generally, both types of trial proceed in the same way. There is a lot of helpful information about the court system and going to court as a juror on www. Receiving a jury citation Names of people aged 18 and over are selected at random from the electoral register for jury service. You will receive a single legal document called a jury citation between three and nine weeks prior to the trial date. It will give you information about where and when to attend the court. You must read it carefully. You must provide your contact telephone number and date of birth. If you do not have internet access, you can telephone the court that cited you. You may be fined if you do not respond to the citation. You should take the citation with you to court. If you do not have internet access, you can obtain a copy from the court that sent you the citation. You can apply to be excused from jury service if you: You should try to return the exemption form within 7 days of receiving the jury citation. You should receive a letter from the court advising if this has been granted or not. If you do not receive anything then you should contact the court. Who is disqualified from serving due to a conviction or pending criminal case You will be disqualified from serving on a jury if at any time in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man you: Who is ineligible to serve on a jury due to their occupation Those ineligible to serve on a jury include: People in the following occupations have a right to be excused if they apply to be excused within 7 days of receiving the jury citation: If you apply after this, then you will be required to provide a good reason for excusal and this will be considered by the Clerk of Court. People ineligible to serve on a jury due to a mental disorder You should apply to be excused from jury service if you: Applying to be excused from jury service because of your age Anyone over 18 on the electoral register can be summoned for jury service. You can apply to be excused if you are aged 71 or over. In these circumstances you can apply for exemption up until the date you attend court but it may be helpful to let the court know as soon as possible. However, if you are over 71 and want to serve on a jury, you are permitted to do so. Applying to be excused from jury service on other grounds You may wish to apply to be excused from jury service. You can make this application on the prescribed form for excusal or exemption, available on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals website at www. If you have a medical condition or ailment that would make it difficult or impossible for you to serve as a juror you should contact the court immediately. You may have to provide a medical certificate. How long does a trial last It is difficult to estimate the exact length of any trial. The Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service says that jury service is unlikely to last for more than a week but this depends on several factors e. Cases that do take longer than a week are more likely to be in the High Court, but this can also happen in the Sheriff Court. Who can serve on a jury Criminal trials To be qualified to serve on a jury for a criminal case you must: There is no upper age limit for serving on a jury for a civil case but you can be excused from jury service if you are 71 years of age or older and you do not want to serve on a jury be on the electoral register have lived in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for a period of at least five years since the age of 13 not be on the list of people who are either disqualified or ineligible. The list of disqualified or ineligible people includes staff of the court service and police and anyone with a criminal conviction which is not yet spent. Civil trials To be qualified to serve on a jury for a civil case you must: There is no upper age limit for serving on a jury for a criminal case but you can be excused from jury service if you are 71 years of age or older and you do not want to serve on a jury be on the electoral register have lived in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for a period of at least five years since the age of 13 not be on the list of people who are either disqualified or ineligible. Do I have to attend court when I am called? Deferring jury service You could have your jury service deferred but you would need to show good reason, for example, you have a

holiday booked. You would have to show the court some proof that the holiday was booked. Release during the period of jury service Generally you will not be relieved from jury service once you have been sworn in. Conscientious objection to serving on a jury You do not have the right to refuse to serve on a jury on the grounds that you object to jury service in principle. Excused because of previous jury service If you have been called for jury service in the past you do have the right to be excused if: Court discretion to excuse A court has discretion to excuse someone from serving on a jury but there needs to be a very good reason why you can be excused, for example, you have scheduled exams that cannot be changed. Application to be excused is refused If your application to be excused from jury service has been refused you do not have the right of appeal. When you appear in court to serve on the jury the judge usually asks if there is any reason why someone on the jury cannot serve on it. You can state your case to be excused again and the judge has discretion to excuse you. Illness and jury service If you are unwell on a day that you are due to be in court for jury service, you must inform the Clerk of Court as soon as possible. The contact details are on the paperwork that you get from the court but can also be found on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service website at www.scotcourts.gov.uk. You must provide a medical certificate for the court. A medical certificate that is requested from a GP for jury service is exempt from payment. You should tell the GP surgery why you need the certificate, and if you have any difficulty in getting the certificate free of charge you should refer the surgery to the law that provides for the exemption from payment of the fee: A pre-recorded message will tell you what time you should arrive at the court the next day. If you are unable to phone, you should attend the court at the time indicated on your citation. Selection process When all those who have been called for jury service have arrived, the Clerk of Court will talk to you all about what is involved in being a juror. When it is known that the trial is going ahead, the Clerk will randomly select fifteen people twelve people in a civil trial to serve on the jury. If you are not selected, or if the trial is no longer going ahead, you could be recalled a few days later to serve on another jury. Attendance at court for the purpose of being selected for a jury is unlikely to last for more than a week. It is also difficult to estimate the exact duration of any trial. During selection of a jury, an objection to a juror could be lodged by either side in the case. If it is a joint objection you may not become part of the jury. If just one side objects, a reason must be given and the judge will decide whether you should be excused or not. Knowledge of the accused If you have any personal knowledge of the case, know anyone involved, or if you work for the same employer as the accused but do not know the person, you should tell the Clerk of Court immediately. Juror is disabled If you have been selected for jury service and have a disability for which you need assistance you should contact the court. Swearing in If you are selected to serve on a jury, you will be sworn in. The Clerk of Court will administer the oath. You can use a process to affirm instead of swearing the oath. Affirming means that you make a non religious promise before the court that you will try the case faithfully and reach a true verdict on the evidence presented. However, prior notice should be given to the Clerk if you wish to affirm. Sequence of events The judge will explain to you what is going to happen. Witnesses are brought before the court to give evidence. Each witness is questioned by the Crown who is prosecuting the case and by the defence. The accused is also called to give evidence. You will have paper and a pencil for taking notes about the evidence presented to the court. What if I become ill Once the trial has started, if you become unwell overnight or over the weekend and cannot return to the court, you must inform the court and provide evidence. Confidentiality about the case Once the trial has begun, you must not discuss the case with anyone except fellow jurors and then, only in the jury room. Mobile phones and computers are not allowed in the jury room. You will also be instructed not to look in the media for any information about the case in question. The permission of the court is needed if anyone, for example, the media or members of the public, want to use text-based devices to communicate directly from the court. You may not leave the court during the lunch break. You must remain with the other members of the jury. The rules about confidentiality still apply in overnight accommodation. It is contempt of court, punishable by imprisonment or a fine, for you to discuss, for example, statements made or votes cast by members of the jury, even long after the trial has ended. It is also contempt of court for any person to try and obtain such information from a juror. Intimidation It is a criminal offence to intimidate, bully or attempt to influence you when you are serving on a jury. If anyone tries to do this you must report what has happened to the Clerk of Court. Security If you feel

threatened at any time by gesture, word or action you should inform any court official or police officer immediately. In trials for rape or sexual assault, the judge may speak about the reasons a victim may have for delaying the reporting of the crime, or about why there may be a lack of physical resistance or force used. Force is not a legal requirement for the crime of rape the victim may be asleep or unconscious, for example. The verdict When the jury reach an agreement either as a majority or unanimously you return to court to give the verdict. In a criminal trial there are three verdicts open to the jury: Not guilty and not proven both mean that the accused cannot be tried again for that offence unless there is new compelling evidence, the original trial was tainted with intimidation or harassment of witnesses or the accused admits guilt after the trial. If the verdict on any charge is guilty there must be at least 8 jurors in favour of that verdict. The judge decides on the sentence for the accused although may not do so immediately. In a civil trial the jury will be asked if they have reached a verdict. If they have, they will then be asked a number of questions, for example, is the pursuer liable and if so, to what extent. Financial arrangements What you can claim You will not be paid for jury service but you may be reimbursed subject to a maximum daily amount for: You can claim for loss of earnings or expenses at the end of the period of jury service.

Ultimately, if one must serve jury duty, consider it not only a duty but also a privilege of citizenship. We are often used to thinking of citizenship in a passive way. We are often used to thinking of citizenship in a passive way.

Sometimes you can pay to jump the queue. Such tips are quasi bribes and handled discreetly. No sign in the window announces immediate seating for anyone willing to slip the host a fifty-dollar bill. But in recent years, selling the right to cut in line has come out of the shadows and become a familiar practice. But not everyone has to wait in the serpentine queues. Those who buy first-class or business-class tickets can use priority lanes that take them to the front of the line for screening. British Airways calls it Fast Track, a service that also lets high-paying passengers jump the queue at passport and immigration control. Security checks, they argue, are a matter of national defense, not an amenity like extra legroom or early boarding privileges; the burden of keeping terrorists off airplanes should be shared equally by all passengers. The airlines reply that everyone is subjected to the same level of screening; only the wait varies by price. As long as everyone receives the same body scan, they maintain, a shorter wait in the security line is a convenience they should be free to sell. Traditionally, visitors may spend hours waiting in line for the most popular rides and attractions. Now, Universal Studios Hollywood and other theme parks offer a way to avoid the wait: Expedited access to the Revenge of the Mummy thrill ride may be morally less freighted than privileged access to an airport security check. Still, some observers lament the practice, seeing it as corrosive of a wholesome civic habit: To avoid offending ordinary customers, some parks usher their premium guests through back doors and separate gates; others provide an escort to ease the way of VIP guests as they cut in line. This need for discretion suggests that paid line cutting—even in an amusement park—tugs against a nagging sense that fairness means waiting your turn. Unfortunately, the site attracts several million visitors a year, and the wait for the elevator can sometimes take hours. So the Empire State Building now offers a fast track of its own. Increasingly, commuters can buy their way out of bumper-to-bumper traffic and into a fast-moving express lane. It began during the s with car pool lanes. Many states, hoping to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, created express lanes for commuters willing to share a ride. Solo drivers caught using the car pool lanes faced hefty fines. Some put blow-up dolls in the passenger seat in hopes of fooling the highway patrol. In an episode of the television comedy *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, Larry David comes up with an ingenious way of buying access to the car pool lane: Sure enough, the quick ride in the car pool lane gets him there in time for the first pitch. The toll typically varies according to the traffic—the heavier the traffic, the higher the fee. In most places, cars with two or more occupants can still use express lanes for free. On the Riverside Freeway, east of Los Angeles, rush-hour traffic creeps along at 15–20 miles an hour in the free lanes, while the paying customers in the express lane zip by at 60–65 mph. They argue that the proliferation of fast-track schemes adds to the advantages of affluence and consigns the poor to the back of the line. They argue that there is nothing wrong with charging more for faster service. Federal Express charges a premium for overnight delivery. The local dry cleaner charges extra for same-day service. To an economist, long lines for goods and services are wasteful and inefficient, a sign that the price system has failed to align supply and demand. Letting people pay for faster service at airports, at amusement parks, and on highways improves economic efficiency by letting people put a price on their time. Tickets for the evening performances are made available at 1: As the *New York Daily News* reported, this predicament gave rise to a cottage industry—people offering to wait in line to secure tickets for those willing to pay for the convenience. The line standers advertised their services on Craigslist and other websites. When congressional committees hold hearings on proposed legislation, they reserve some seats for the press and make others available to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis. Depending on the subject and the size of the room, the lines for the hearings can form a day or more in advance, sometimes in the rain or in the chill of winter. Corporate lobbyists are keen to attend these hearings, in order to chat up lawmakers during breaks and keep track of legislation affecting their industries. But the lobbyists are loath to spend hours in line to assure themselves a seat. The line-standing companies recruit retirees, message couriers, and, increasingly, homeless people to brave the elements and hold a place in the

queue. The line standers wait outside, then, as the line moves, they proceed inside the halls of the congressional office buildings, queuing up outside the hearing rooms. Shortly before the hearing begins, the well-heeled lobbyists arrive, trade places with their scruffily attired stand-ins, and claim their seats in the hearing room. He was living in a homeless shelter when he was recruited for the job. CNN interviewed him as he held a place in line for a lobbyist at a hearing on climate change. Or they could have hired homeless people to do it for them. Recently, while visiting China, I learned that the line-standing business has become routine at top hospitals in Beijing. The market reforms of the last two decades have resulted in funding cuts for public hospitals and clinics, especially in rural areas. So patients from the countryside now journey to the major public hospitals in the capital, creating long lines in registration halls. They queue up overnight, sometimes for days, to get an appointment ticket to see a doctor. Rather than camp out for days and nights in the queue, some patients, desperate for an appointment, buy tickets from scalpers. The scalpers make a business of the yawning gap between supply and demand. They hire people to line up for appointment tickets and then resell the tickets for hundreds of dollars—more than a typical peasant makes in months. Appointments to see leading specialists are especially prized—and hawked by the scalpers as if they were box seats for the World Series. The Los Angeles Times described the ticket-scalping scene outside the registration hall of a Beijing hospital: Who wants a ticket for Dr. For one thing, the system rewards unsavory middlemen rather than those who provide the care. Economists might agree and advise hospitals to raise their prices. In fact, some Beijing hospitals have added special ticket windows, where the appointments are more expensive and the lines much shorter. But regardless of who cashes in on the excess demand, the scalpers or the hospital, the fast track to the rheumatologist raises a more basic question: Should patients be able to jump the queue for medical care simply because they can afford to pay extra? The scalpers and special ticket windows at Beijing hospitals raise this question vividly. But the same question can be asked of a subtler form of queue jumping increasingly practiced in the U. Doctor appointments have to be scheduled weeks, sometimes months, in advance. When you show up for the appointment, you may have to cool your heels in the waiting room, only to spend a hurried ten or fifteen minutes with the doctor. So to make a decent living, physicians in general practice have rosters of three thousand patients or more, and often rush through twenty-five to thirty appointments per day. And if you need to see a top specialist, your concierge doctor will pave the way. Physicians who decide to convert their practice into a concierge service send a letter to their existing patients offering a choice: Participating physicians cut their patient rolls to six hundred, enabling them to spend more time with each patient. But since there is little if any waiting, the food often goes untouched. Doctors can see eight to twelve patients a day, rather than thirty, and still come out ahead financially. For patients who can afford it, unhurried appointments and round-the-clock access to a doctor are luxuries worth paying for. Concierge medicine differs, to be sure, from the special ticket windows and the appointment-scalping system in Beijing. But the two systems have this in common: The queue jumping is more brazen in Beijing than in Boca Raton. There seems a world of difference between the clamor of the crowded registration hall and the calm of the waiting room with the uneaten sponge cake. Selling the right to cut in line is not the most grievous instance of this trend. But thinking through the rights and wrongs of line standing, ticket scalping, and other forms of queue jumping can help us glimpse the moral force—and moral limits—of market reasoning. Is there anything wrong with hiring people to stand in line, or with scalping tickets? Most economists say no. They have little sympathy for the ethic of the queue. If I want to hire a homeless person to queue up on my behalf, they ask, why should anyone complain? The case for markets over queues draws on two arguments. One is about respecting individual freedom; the other is about maximizing welfare, or social utility. The first is a libertarian argument. Libertarians oppose laws against ticket scalping for the same reason they oppose laws against prostitution, or the sale of human organs: The second argument for markets, more familiar among economists, is utilitarian. It says that market exchanges benefit buyers and sellers alike, thereby improving our collective well-being, or social utility. The fact that my line stander and I strike a deal proves that we are both better off as a result. We are both better off as a result of our exchange; our utility increases. This is what economists mean when they say that free markets allocate goods efficiently. By allowing people to make mutually advantageous trades, markets allocate goods to those who value them most highly, as measured by their

willingness to pay. My colleague Greg Mankiw, an economist, is the author of one of the most widely used economics textbooks in the United States. He uses the example of ticket scalping to illustrate the virtues of the free market. Why try to banish paid line standers and ticket scalpers from Central Park or Capitol Hill? A spokesperson for Shakespeare in the Park offered the following rationale: We want people to have that experience for free. Hired line standers do not reduce the total number of people who see the performance; they only change who sees it.

Chapter 3 : The Thousand and One Nights (Alf Layla Wa-Layla) (2 Vols.): The Classic Edition () pdf

Ultimate Gay Erotica: Siege of Mortania: Mission 7 (Black Ocean) Recovery From Brain Damage The Lego Ideas Book You Can Build Anything Readings in humanist sociology Ich bin in der Natur geboren The Princesse De Clèves: The Princesse De Montpensier, The Comtesse De Tende (Oxford WorldS Classics) Reasons Why I Cant Serve on Jury Duty.

Court usually starts at 9: Be sure to bring your Summons with you the day you are scheduled to attend the courthouse. If you are summoned to attend at a location outside of Toronto, you are required to attend for the date shown in your Summons and usually one or two days after that, and perhaps one or two days of the following week. If you live in, and are summoned to attend court in the City of Toronto, you are required to attend as a prospective juror for a minimum of one week. Jury panel members may be on call for two or three weeks. This varies for each court. You may be asked to attend on consecutive days, or in many locations, on consecutive Mondays. This depends on the number of trials for which juries must be selected during that time frame. Jury panel members go home at the end of each day. Jurors sitting on a trial usually go home each day and would only stay in a hotel if during a criminal trial, they had begun their deliberations but have not reached their decision by late in the evening. If you are selected to sit on a jury trial, you will be advised of the estimated length of the trial as part of the selection process. Parking facilities vary from courthouse to courthouse, and public transportation is strongly recommended if available. If you attend the courthouse as a member of the jury panel, you will be responsible for paying your own parking fees. Jurors are not allowed to post information relating to the trial on social media. If you have any further questions on specific courthouse practices, you should contact your local court office. Their contact information is found at the top, left-hand corner of your summons. Additional local court house messaging is also found at the bottom left hand corner of your summons. Juror Payments-Jury Panel Members Jury panel members who reside more than 40 kms from the courthouse, and who live outside the city limits, will receive a travel allowance. Panel members are not paid for attending the courthouse in response to their Summons unless selected as a juror. Please see the Juror Payments section below. Panel members in the City of Toronto are not paid a travel or parking allowance and are strongly encouraged to use public transportation. Juror Payments-Jurors Those persons selected from the jury panel to serve as jurors will receive the following payment: From day 1 to No fee From day 11 to Trials of this length are rare. Jurors who live outside the city in which the courthouse is located will be paid a daily travel expense once serving as a juror. Jurors residing in the same city as the courthouse are not paid a travel allowance. Employers are required by law to allow employees time off for jury duty. The law does not require employers to pay salary for employees summoned for jury duty, although some employers do. Speak with your employer to determine if they have a policy to pay people absent from work for jury duty. As a member of a jury panel or as a selected juror there is no allowance for childcare expenses. Disabilities and Accommodations If you need accommodation for a disability, contact the court office immediately to discuss your needs. The court address and phone number are on the upper left corner of the Summons. Every effort will be made to provide necessary accommodations for people with disabilities to participate in the jury process. Courtroom accommodation requests will require the approval of a judge. Hardships in Attending Jury Duty If this is a difficult time for you to attend at the courthouse because of your employment, business, schooling, vacation, illness, medical treatment or condition, or other personal circumstances, you may ask to be excused from jury duty, or to have your jury duty deferred to a later date. You must immediately make this request in writing to the court office and explain the nature of your difficulty. You must provide any available documentation that supports your request. Your request will be considered by a judge. The court office will advise you of an alternate date to attend if your request is approved by a judge. If you are on Employment Insurance benefits E. You may contact the nearest E. Court Security Some court facilities require that all persons are searched on entering the courthouse for security purposes. If you have any questions, you may contact the court office to which you have been summoned. Qualifications for Jury Duty Persons in the following professions do not qualify to serve as jurors: Court staff will advise you whether your new address

is within the court district where you are attending for jury duty. Alternatively, you can return a copy of your summons with a letter of explanation to the court address shown on the summons with supporting documentation showing your new address e. If you received a summons and the address is not correct, in addition to contacting the local court house, you should contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation MPAC to request that they update their database with your correct and updated information. Their contact information is found on the following website: Alternatively, you may contact MPAC by calling them at

Chapter 4 : Jury Info | District of South Dakota | United States District Court

Those eligible may be excused from jury service if they have illnesses that would interfere with their ability to do a good job, would suffer unusual hardship if required to serve, or are unable to serve for other legitimate reasons.

Share via Email Two years ago a reader contacted Guardian Money after being summoned for a fourth time to serve on a jury. Now he has been called up again and wonders if five trips to the jury box is something of a record. But it has left him scratching his head as to why he is called so often. Plenty of people go through their lives never being summoned; others are called repeatedly. Is selection really, as the government says, entirely random, or is something else at work here? Why our jury system can be guilty of inflexibility Letters Read more In there were , juror summons issued in England and Wales, but the number who actually sat on a jury was just , With the two nations having a total population of The MoJ says that if you are called within two years of the last time you served you have an automatic right to be excused. Numerous theories abound on the internet as to why some people are called to serve and others not. Some believe they are blacklisted because they have an Irish heritage dating back to IRA terrorism days , or that they were once a member of CND. Some reckon they have been picked because they have been at the same address or same job for years on end and are a conservative, reliable type. The reality is rather more dull. It is under no requirement to call people who are a representative cross-section of society which is why, in theory, it is possible to have juries which are entirely male or female. According to the MoJ, no attempt is made to balance gender, age or ethnicity. It is as random as the prize number generator for premium bonds. Some people hold premium bonds all their life and win nothing, others win again and again. Smith says those summoned should prize the experience. I see it as a citizenship thing that is, a duty for those called and should be a source of pride. It means he has seen the inside of more crown courts than most career criminals. Ironically, before Smith became semi-retired he worked in HR, and would regularly write letters to the courts asking for an employee to be excused from jury service. You can understand why I think the problem was that juries started to be largely made up of retired people and the unemployed. Some people are automatically excluded from a summons. Neither can you serve if you have been in prison in the past 10 years. Grounds for excusal include: You can even find yourself on a jury sitting next to a judge. They are only excused if they are known to parties involved in the trial. Other than that, they have to turn up, too. Much more commonly, you can delay jury service but only once, and you have to say when you will be available over the next 12 months. The main grounds for deferral are: Mumsnet forums are alive with complaints from mothers with pre-school children. In Britain, the court clerk will select 12 out of the 15 potential jurors at random. Last year, research by Churchill Home Insurance found that one in 20 employers refused to pay their staff if they undertook jury service, while a third stopped after five days. There is no legal obligation for firms to pay employees while on jury service. Boredom is perhaps a bigger issue for many who are called up. Much of the time a juror spends in crown court is in a room waiting to be called. But that still means a lot of people spending a lot of time twiddling their thumbs. Typically, jurors are required to be available for 10 days, but sometimes longer. Most jurors are called for approximately 10 working days. During this time you could sit on a number of juries covering a wide range of trials; however this cannot be guaranteed. In Britain, the court clerk will select 12 out of the 15 potential jurors at random to sit on the jury. Only then will you find out if you are on a fascinating trial or something rather more dull.

Chapter 5 : Domestic Violence Restraining Orders - Superior Court of California

However, once a jury begins hearing a case, the jury will remain seated for the duration of that case. In some urban areas a person may be required to serve as few as 14 days, while in some rural areas a person may be asked to serve as many as days.

In dealing with the grand jury, the prosecutor must always conduct himself or herself as an officer of the court whose function is to ensure that justice is done and that guilt shall not escape nor innocence suffer. The prosecutor must recognize that the grand jury is an independent body, whose functions include not only the investigation of crime and the initiation of criminal prosecution but also the protection of the citizenry from unfounded criminal charges. In discharging these responsibilities, the prosecutor must be scrupulously fair to all witnesses and must do nothing to inflame or otherwise improperly influence the grand jurors. Thus, it has been said that a grand jury has but two functions—“to indict or, in the alternative, to return a "no-bill. At common law, a grand jury enjoyed a certain power to issue reports alleging non-criminal misconduct. A special grand jury impaneled under Title 18 U. Whether a regular grand jury enjoys a comparable authority to issue a report is a difficult and complex question. The Criminal Division of the Department of Justice should be consulted before any grand jury report is initiated, whether by a regular or special grand jury. United States, U. Accordingly, the grand jury cannot be used solely to obtain additional evidence against a defendant who has already been indicted. Nor can the grand jury be used solely for pre-trial discovery or trial preparation. After indictment, the grand jury may be used if its investigation is related to a superseding indictment of additional defendants or additional crimes by an indicted defendant. Once a grand jury returns a no-bill or otherwise acts on the merits in declining to return an indictment, the same matter i. Use of Grand Jury to Locate Fugitives: It is improper to utilize the grand jury solely as an investigative aid in the search for a fugitive in whose testimony the grand jury has no interest. In re Pedro Archuleta, F. However, if the grand jury has a legitimate interest in the testimony of a fugitive, it may subpoena other witnesses and records in an effort to locate the fugitive. If the present whereabouts of a fugitive is related to a legitimate grand jury investigation of offenses such as harboring, 18 U. See In re Grusse, F. Generally, grand jury subpoenas should not be used to locate fugitives in investigations of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. Normally an unlawful flight complaint will be dismissed when a fugitive is apprehended and turned over to State authorities to await extradition. Prosecutions for unlawful flight are rare and the statute requires prior written approval of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General, or an Assistant Attorney General. Since indictments for unlawful flight are rarely sought, it would be improper to routinely use the grand jury in an effort to locate unlawful flight fugitives. Alternatives to Grand Jury Subpoenas: Since the enactment of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of , law enforcement access to telephone records is covered by Federal statute. Pursuant to 18 U. Occasionally, there may be records other than telephone toll records which might be useful in a fugitive investigation but which cannot be obtained by grand jury subpoena, administrative subpoena, or search warrant. In such instances, it is appropriate to seek a court order for production of the records under the All Writs Act, 28 U. The All Writs Act provides: The Supreme Court and all courts established by the Act of Congress may issue all writs necessary or appropriate in aid of their respective jurisdictions and agreeable to the usages and principles of law. The United States Supreme Court has recognized the power of a Federal court to issue orders under the All Writs Act "as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate and prevent the frustration of orders it has previously issued in the exercise of its jurisdiction. New York Telephone Co. Because the purpose of the All Writs Act is to aid the court in the exercise of its jurisdiction, an application for an order under the act must be sought only from the United States District Court in which the complaint or indictment is pending. The use of the All Writs Act to obtain records in a fugitive investigation is not a procedure to be used in every fugitive case. The willingness of courts to issue such orders may depend on the selectivity with which such applications are made, and the courts will not condone a wholesale use of the act for this purpose. Thus, the procedure should be used only in extraordinary cases where a strong showing can be made that the records are likely to lead to ascertaining the

whereabouts of the fugitive. Ordinarily, there is no need to name a person as an unindicted co-conspirator in an indictment in order to fulfill any legitimate prosecutorial interest or duty. For purposes of indictment itself, it is sufficient, for example, to allege that the defendant conspired with "another person or persons known. If identification of the person is required, it can be supplied, upon request, in a bill of particulars. The prohibition against naming unindicted co-conspirators should not extend to persons who have otherwise been charged with the same conspiracy, by way of unsealed criminal complaint or information. In the absence of some significant justification, federal prosecutors generally should not identify unindicted co-conspirators in conspiracy indictments. Grand jury subpoenas may be served at any place within the United States. Under Rule 17 g of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, a failure by a person without adequate excuse to obey a subpoena served upon him or her may be deemed a contempt of the court. There are special considerations involved when evidence sought by United States investigators and prosecutors is located in a foreign country. Inquiries should be directed to the Office of International Affairs. Policies regarding the issuance of subpoenas to members of the news media and the issuance of subpoenas for telephone toll records of members of the news media are discussed elsewhere in the JM. Because of procedures imposed by the Right to Financial Privacy Act of , it is important, nevertheless, that United States Attorneys exercise close control over the process of obtaining for law enforcement purposes business records of banks and other financial institutions. Sound grand jury practice requires that: Every recipient of a grand jury subpoena for financial institution records who might be subject to the disclosure penalties should be made aware that civil and criminal penalties exist for making certain disclosures involving FIF offenses regarding the subpoena. The notice may be provided by way of an attachment to the subpoena setting forth the disclosure prohibitions and the penalties for disclosure. The prohibited notifications and applicable penalties are set out in 12 U. The criminal penalties include fines and a maximum prison term of five years if an officer of a financial institution as defined in 18 U. In addition, fines and a maximum prison term of one year may be imposed if the notification is made, directly or indirectly, to a customer of the financial institution whose records are sought by the subpoena or to any other person named in the subpoena. However, in the context of particular cases such a subpoena may carry the appearance of unfairness. If a voluntary appearance cannot be obtained, the target should be subpoenaed only after the United States Attorney or the responsible Assistant Attorney General have approved the subpoena. In determining whether to approve a subpoena for a "target," careful attention will be paid to the following considerations: A "target" is a person as to whom the prosecutor or the grand jury has substantial evidence linking him or her to the commission of a crime and who, in the judgment of the prosecutor, is a putative defendant. The same lack of automatic target status holds true for organizations which employ, or employed, an officer or employee who is a target. See *Washington*, at Notwithstanding the lack of a clear constitutional imperative, it is the policy of the Department that an "Advice of Rights" form be appended to all grand jury subpoenas to be served on any "target" or "subject" of an investigation. In addition, these "warnings" should be given by the prosecutor on the record before the grand jury and the witness should be asked to affirm that the witness understands them. This supplemental advice of status of the witness as a target should be repeated on the record when the target witness is advised of the matters discussed in the preceding paragraphs. When a district court insists that the notice of rights not be appended to a grand jury subpoena, the advice of rights may be set forth in a separate letter and mailed to or handed to the witness when the subpoena is served. Advice of Rights The grand jury is conducting an investigation of possible violations of Federal criminal laws involving: State here the general subject matter of inquiry, e. You may refuse to answer any question if a truthful answer to the question would tend to incriminate you. Anything that you do say may be used against you by the grand jury or in a subsequent legal proceeding. If you have retained counsel, the grand jury will permit you a reasonable opportunity to step outside the grand jury room to consult with counsel if you so desire. Additional Advice to be Given to Targets: Leverage Funding System, Inc. Accordingly, under normal circumstances, where no burden upon the grand jury or delay of its proceedings is involved, reasonable requests by a "subject" or "target" of an investigation, as defined above, to testify personally before the grand jury ordinarily should be given favorable consideration, provided that such witness explicitly waives his or her privilege against self-incrimination, on the record before the grand jury, and is represented by counsel or

voluntarily and knowingly appears without counsel and consents to full examination under oath. Such witnesses may wish to supplement their testimony with the testimony of others. The decision whether to accommodate such requests or to reject them after listening to the testimony of the target or the subject, or to seek statements from the suggested witnesses, is a matter left to the sound discretion of the grand jury. When passing on such requests, it must be kept in mind that the grand jury was never intended to be and is not properly either an adversary proceeding or the arbiter of guilt or innocence. Notification would not be appropriate in routine clear cases or when such action might jeopardize the investigation or prosecution because of the likelihood of flight, destruction or fabrication of evidence, endangerment of other witnesses, undue delay or otherwise would be inconsistent with the ends of justice. If a "target" of the investigation and his or her attorney state in a writing, signed by both, that the "target" will refuse to testify on Fifth Amendment grounds, the witness ordinarily should be excused from testifying unless the grand jury and the United States Attorney agree to insist on the appearance. In determining the desirability of insisting on the appearance of such a person, consideration should be given to the factors which justified the subpoena in the first place, i. Some argue that unless the prosecutor is prepared to seek an order pursuant to 18 U. However, such a broad rule would be improper and make it too convenient for witnesses to avoid testifying truthfully to their knowledge of relevant facts. Such a notification should be provided only by the United States Attorney having cognizance over the grand jury investigation. Discontinuation of target status may be appropriate when: The target previously has been notified by the government that he or she was a target of the investigation; and, The criminal investigation involving the target has been discontinued without an indictment being returned charging the target, or the government receives evidence in a continuing investigation that conclusively establishes that target status has ended as to this individual. The United States Attorney may decline to issue such notification if the notification would adversely affect the integrity of the investigation or the grand jury process, or for other appropriate reasons. No explanation need be provided for declining such a request. If the United States Attorney concludes that the notification is appropriate, the language of the notification may be tailored to the particular case. In a particular case, for example, the language of the notification may be drafted to preclude the target from using the notification as a "clean bill of health" or testimonial. The contempt may extend for the life of the grand jury. If the prosecutor believes that the witness possesses information essential to the investigation, resubpoenaing the witness may also be justified when the witness himself or herself is involved to a significant degree in the criminality about which the witness can testify. Prior authorization must be obtained from the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, to resubpoena a witness before the successive grand jury as well as to seek civil contempt sanctions should the witness persist in his or her refusal to testify. To obtain approval, the prosecutor must show either: The coercive effect of a civil contempt adjudication is substantially diluted if a grand jury is approaching its expiration date. This is a matter within the discretion of the United States Attorney and there may well be situations when it is necessary to subpoena a witness and institute contempt proceedings for recalcitrance in such circumstances. In most situations, however, it would seem preferable to subpoena the witness before a new grand jury. Each United States Attorney should be assured that hearsay evidence presented to the grand jury will be presented on its merits so that the jurors are not misled into believing that the witness is giving his or her personal account. It is the policy of the Department of Justice, however, that when a prosecutor conducting a grand jury inquiry is personally aware of substantial evidence that directly negates the guilt of a subject of the investigation, the prosecutor must present or otherwise disclose such evidence to the grand jury before seeking an indictment against such a person. For purposes of that rule, an "attorney for the government" is defined in Fed. The authority for a United States Attorney to conduct grand jury proceedings is set forth in the statute establishing United States Attorney duties, 28 U. United States Attorneys are directed in that statute to "prosecute for all offenses against the United States. When a United States Attorney or Assistant United States Attorney needs to appear before a grand jury in a district other than the district in which he or she has been appointed, the United States Attorney for either the district of appointment or the district of the grand jury should complete an appointment letter, appointing the attorney as a Special Assistant United States Attorney SAUSA.

Chapter 6 : Jury Duty Information - Ministry of the Attorney General

ABOUT US. Dallas County is a county located in the U.S. state of Texas. As of the census, the population was 2,, It is the second-most populous county in Texas and the ninth-most populous in the United States.

If I serve on a jury, how long will it be before I can be called again? You are not required to serve on a federal court jury within a two-year time span. If you are selected before the two years has elapsed, you may request an excuse based on your prior service i. You can still be summoned for jury duty in state and municipal courts, as those systems are separately and independently organized and managed by the state and local government entities. On the days that I am not asked to report, what do I do? When the jury recording states that you are not selected to report for service, continue with your normal schedule. Follow the instructions on your jury summons for any remaining dates to call for reporting instructions. What are grounds for requesting a permanent excuse and how do I request one? You can request an excuse if: Please include your 9 digit participant number. If your situation falls within category 9 , please be specific. Excuses must be submitted by the date specified on your written instructions. Please submit the request by the date specified in your written instructions. Allow time for your request to be received and reviewed by the court. The court will send you confirmation as to its decision electronically if you provide your e-mail address, or by mail. You are on-call for jury service until you hear otherwise from the court. What are grounds for requesting a temporary excuse and how do I request one? Temporary excuses can be granted for many types of temporary hardships, such as established vacation plans, temporary medical problems, students who are at college, economic or family hardships, etc. Please submit by the date specified in your written instructions. The court will send you confirmation electronically if you provide your e-mail address or by mail as to its decision. You will remain on-call for service until you hear otherwise from the court. What are grounds for requesting a partial excuse and how do I request one? Does my employer have to pay me my normal wages if I am serving on a jury? Federal law does not require employers to pay your salary during your jury service. However, many employers have policies which stipulate what they are willing or not willing to pay employees while they are serving. Please check with your employer as to the company policy regarding jury service. Can my employer terminate me for not being at work due to jury service? You have employment protection rights as a federal juror. When a juror is paid, a voucher will be issued to the juror with payment categorizing the elements of the payment. The juror should settle payment directly with the employer. Where should I park? The court will not pay for parking tickets. Arraj Courthouse is located at 19th Street in downtown Denver. Since court may continue past 5: Do not park at a meter; park at an all-day lot. Remember to bring change for parking. This information is furnished for your convenience and does not constitute an endorsement of any transportation service. A parking garage is located directly across from the front entrance of the courthouse. Do not park at a short-term meter. Parking is available on side streets and in residential areas around the courthouse. To avoid parking tickets, do not park on Second Avenue, Main Avenue or at parking meters. Courthouse is located at N. Wahsatch Avenue in Colorado Springs. Parking is available in the garage of the building, as well as on the corner of Wahsatch Ave. If I live far from the courthouse, can I stay overnight before I have to report and how much do you reimburse for overnight accommodations? Jurors who reside 50 or more miles from the courthouse are eligible to receive a flat rate lodging reimbursement if they choose to stay overnight in a hotel. A hotel receipt is required for reimbursement. Hotel reimbursement rates, per night, are as follows: If a juror elects lodging that is in excess of the per diem, the juror will be responsible for the overage. Many hotels offer a government rate for jurors who show their jury summons as proof. All jurors are expected to checkout the morning of their last day of service.

Chapter 7 : Jury Frequently Asked Questions | Eastern District of Arkansas | United States District Court

Our mission is to serve the public by providing a fair and impartial forum that ensures equal access to justice in accordance with the rule of law, protects rights and liberties of all persons, and resolves cases in a timely and efficient manner.

Annotations The requirement of an impartial jury is secured not only by the Sixth Amendment, which is as applicable to the states as to the Federal Government, but also by the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment, and perhaps by the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment. The Court has held that in the absence of an actual showing of bias, a defendant in the District of Columbia is not denied an impartial jury when he is tried before a jury composed primarily of government employees. A defendant is denied due process, therefore, if he is convicted by a jury that has been instructed to first determine the voluntariness of a confession and then to disregard the confession if it is found to be inadmissible. Colorado, the Court for the first time recognized a Sixth Amendment exception to the no-impeachment rule. *Brown*, the Court summed up four principles subject dant has the right to an impartial jury drawn from a venire that has not been tilted in favor of capital punishment by selective prosecutorial challenges for cause. Second, the State has a strong interest in having jurors who are able to apply capital punishment within the framework state law prescribes. Third, to balance these interests, a juror who is substantially impaired in his or her ability to impose the death penalty under the state-law framework can be excused for cause; but if the juror is not substantially impaired, removal for cause is impermissible. The judge must determine whether the nature and strength of the opinion raise a presumption against impartiality. Thus, in a situation in which defendant, a black man, alleged that he was being prosecuted on false charges because of his civil rights activities in an atmosphere perhaps open to racial appeals, prospective jurors must be asked about their racial prejudice, if any. The Swain standard of proof was relaxed in *Batson v. West Virginia*, U. S. Supreme Court, 476 U.S. 574 (1986). See also *Williams v. New York*, U. S. Supreme Court, 378 U.S. 469 (1964). With the extension of the jury trial provision and its fair cross section requirement to the States, the opinions in these cases must be considered tenuous, but the Court has reiterated that defendants are not entitled to a jury of any particular composition. Congress has implemented the constitutional requirement by statute in federal courts by the Federal Jury Selection and Service Act of 1968, Pub. L. No. 90-254, 82 Stat. 1073. To show that underrepresentation resulted from systematic exclusion requires rigorous evidence beyond merely pointing to a single factor or a host of factors that might have caused fewer members of a distinct group to have been included. On common-law grounds, the Court in *Crawford v. The Court* indicated that under the same circumstances in a federal trial it would have overturned the conviction pursuant to its supervisory power. Essentially, the defendant must make a showing of prejudice into which the court may then inquire. The rule applies to the states. But see *Nelson v. In addition*, while the no-impeachment rule, by its very nature, prohibits testimony by jurors, evidence of misconduct other than juror testimony can be used to impeach the verdict. The stigma that attends racial bias may make it difficult for a juror to report inappropriate statements during the court of juror deliberations. The Court thought the problem went only to the issue of the sentence imposed and saw no evidence that a jury from which death-scrupled persons had been excluded was more prone to convict than were juries on which such person sat. *North Carolina*, U. S. Supreme Court, 413 U.S. 491 (1973). *Witherspoon* was given added significance when, in *Woodson v. See also Adams v. The same rule applies in the federal setting. United States*, 98 U.S. 276 (1878). *South Carolina*, U. S. Supreme Court, 439 U.S. 658 (1979). The Court noted that under its supervisory power it would require a federal court faced with the same circumstances to propound appropriate questions to identify racial prejudice if requested by the defendant. But see *Rosales-Lopez v. A plurality apparently adopted a rule that, all else being equal, the judge should necessarily inquire about racial or ethnic prejudice only in cases of violent crimes in which the defendant and victim are members of different racial or ethnic groups, id.* Three dissenting Justices thought the judge must always ask when defendant so requested. But see *Trevino v. So long as the jury that sits is impartial, the fact that the defendant had to use a peremptory challenge to achieve that result does not mean the Sixth Amendment was violated. Similarly, there is no due process violation, at least where state statutory law requires use of peremptory challenges to cure erroneous refusals by the court to*

excuse jurors for cause.

Chapter 8 : Jury FAQs | US District Court of Colorado

Below is my step by step guide to avoiding / minimizing jury service. I was summoned and showed up for jury duty on 10/18/11 - 10/19/11 at the Centre Street courthouse in NYC. Was called into.

Can an employer retaliate against a juror serving on jury duty? The court also has the option of requiring community service as a penalty. Is there a penalty for failure to appear? How are Jurors selected? Names are randomly selected from voter registration lists. Prospective jurors receive a questionnaire by mail to be completed and returned to the court. The names of qualified persons are placed on a list from which the court randomly selects its prospective jurors. Jurors will be called in at random during that period of time not to exceed 30 days of actual consecutive service. Jurors are called randomly during their jury term. What types of jury cases are held in United States District Court? Cases in the United States District Courts are divided into two general classes. These are called criminal cases and civil cases. Criminal cases are those in which individuals or organizations are charged with breaking the criminal laws. Typical criminal charges in a federal court are those involving violation of the federal income tax and narcotics laws, mail theft, and counterfeiting. Civil cases are suits in which persons who disagree over their rights and duties come into court to settle the matter. A typical example of a civil case is one involving a broken contract. One party may claim that it should be paid under the terms of the contract, while the other side may assert a defense to the claim, such as the lack of a binding contract. The court is asked to decide who is right. This depends on the law as laid down by the judge and the facts as decided by the jury. What is proper courtroom etiquette? A court session begins when the court official raps for order. Everyone in the court rises. The judge takes his or her place on the bench, and the court official announces the opening of court. A similar procedure is used when court adjourns. Common courtesy and politeness are safe guides as to the way jurors should act. Of course, no juror will be permitted to read a newspaper or magazine in the courtroom. Nor should a juror carry on a conversation with another juror in the courtroom during the trial. Jurors will be treated with consideration. Their comfort and convenience will be served whenever possible. They should bring to the attention of the judge any matter affecting their service and should notify the court of any emergencies. In the event of a personal emergency a juror may send word to the judge through any court personnel, or may ask to see the judge privately. Jurors are expected to dress in a manner reflective of the formality of the court proceedings. Jurors should not loiter in the corridors or vestibules of the courthouse. Embarrassing contacts may occur there with persons interested in the case. Juror identification badges are provided, they should be worn in the courthouse at all times. There is a different contact person for each Division in the District of South Dakota. When a juror is notified to report by letter they will be instructed to call the juror information line for that Division. The information on that recording will only be pertinent to jurors who have actually been ordered to report and will give date, time and reporting information. How will a juror know when to report for duty? Jurors will receive a letter from the Jury Clerk approximately a week before they are to report. The letter will instruct them where and when, the approximate length of time they may need to serve, parking information, jury line instructions and other pertinent information. What security procedures are in place? For safety purposes, any individual entering the Federal Courthouse will need to pass through security and a metal detector which uses x-ray for purses and packages. The security guards have strict orders to screen all people entering the courthouse, and if all jurors can move through quickly, it is convenient and efficient for you and also the security guards. Pursuant to Security Procedures, members of the public visiting a U. Courthouse shall not possess any knife regardless of blade length, or any implement that is reasonably capable of cutting or puncturing. Included in the prohibition are scissors, box cutters, and ice picks. Audio and video recording devices are not allowed in the building. Cellular phones and portable devices that contain cellular phones will be permitted in the courthouse. Cellular devices must be turned off or in silent mode when taken into courtrooms. Individuals who take such devices into courtrooms may be asked by court security personnel to demonstrate that the device is either turned off or in silent mode. Use of any camera feature inside the courthouse is prohibited unless specifically authorized. What if a juror cannot drive? Jurors are responsible for providing their own transportation to the courthouse. If

you cannot drive yourself, you should arrange to take a bus, or have someone drive you. You will get reimbursed for your travel expenses, including mileage, bus fare, cab fare etc. If such arrangements cannot be made, the juror should contact a Jury Clerk. Where do jurors park? Each Division will furnish you with parking instructions when you are notified. How long will jury selection take? Jury selection will start approximately 9: The day that you are oriented, however, you will be asked to report about an hour before the selection process commences. Usually selection should be concluded by If you are not selected to be a juror, you are excused until further notice, unless otherwise directed by the Court or Jury Clerk. If there is more than one Court selecting jurors for trial, you will need to stay for the next jury trial. How many trials will a juror be required to hear? Jurors are always selected at random; therefore, there is not a way to predict how many trials a juror will be selected to hear. Some jurors seem to be selected more often than others, but that is unexplainable because of the necessity for random selection. If a juror finds that service becomes a hardship, consultation with a Jury Clerk will be helpful. Requests to be excused. When jurors need to be excused for a certain period of time, the jury clerks will make every effort to assist. It is very important that the jurors make the request to be excused in advance. Last minute requests can cause great inconvenience for the juror and for our office and result in a shortage of jurors reporting. Untimely requests sometimes are not granted, unless the need is a definite emergency. Is lunch provided by the Court? Jurors are on their own for lunch other than during deliberation. During deliberation lunch or dinner will be ordered in if the court so orders. During the jury trial, jurors are provided with light snacks, soda, coffee and water. There are small refrigerators in each jury room where you can store your lunches or snacks if you choose. How are jurors paid? Jurors shall be paid Mileage shall be computed from the address listed on the voter registration lists. Jurors are paid once a month. What if my employer requests proof of service? Are juror payments taxable? Attendance only is taxable and should be reported to the IRS as income on a yearly tax return.

Chapter 9 : General Information about Jury Duty - Ministry of the Attorney General

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) estimates that in a given year, 32 million people get summoned for service " though only 8 million of them actually report for jury duty (there are.

I see there are plenty of skills defending the process on this thread. Probably judges and lawyers. To them, I say this: You complain that jury duty is under threat of jail, and is unfair to people who have conscientious problems with the system. Well did you realize that you can mention those problems to the judge, and they will most likely let you go? I recently sat through a jury selection process, and it was amazing how easy it was for people to make excuses. And in the system, where the judges and lawyers are versed in the law and the manipulation of such, but the jury is not remotely versed in law is a disadvantage. Laws can be tweaked, and even struck down, so yes, the jury system can be modified; you just may not want to because of the scope of your beliefs. Find a way to make volunteerism more a part of the process. No country has the amount of litigation we have. Laksmi Post 52 post 6, thanks for the great advice. By the way, America is the only country in the world where they have such a backward system where people are forced to do jury duty. This is not by choice. Tell me, what does freedom mean? I would like to see itemized statements from the government where all our taxes go. The court in my county is corrupt and people know it. Rich people can buy themselves out of jury duty -- oops -- donations anyone? I know a person who leaves for Spain six months out of the year, and never has to do jury duty because he is out of the country. I am glad I do not live in your country and do not have to interact with you. I am also glad I do not have to face you if I am on trial in your country. Why do you think most countries in the world call you the "Ugly Americans? I would think they would want people on juries who really wanted to be there. It makes me sick to my stomach to think about it. I think it really really sucks that we have no choice in the matter. It should be a choice. Besides, what if a murderer gets off on a technicality? Then the jurors would live in fear for the rest of their lives. Oh, and he was treated like crap by this government. Do I give a crap about civic duty? It shows in all statistics and studies done. Is that a hardship? If jury duty was voluntary, then passionate people would choose to be part of the process, and we would see more nullification which would lead to a more free society. Just because there are people who would say no definitely does not mean that all people would. For those who think I have no right to complain about this, you should consider yourselves very lucky to be able to afford such vacations. Some of us have to work to support ourselves and families. We had to be there by 7: No judges showed up til 9: There was a huge pool of jurors and we were packed into a room like sardines. There were not enough chairs. Needless to say many people stood until they started taking groups after 9: There was virtually no pay parking no reimbursement , and absolutely no free parking. Toilet paper and towel dispensers barely worked and there was no soap. We were frequently told what an honor it was to serve. One woman had an obviously bad back. They would not let her speak to anyone early. She had to wait til she was questioned in the jury box and then she explained that she had been in a car accident several years ago and sitting on hard surfaces and standing was very painful. After several dirty looks, and a few rude remarks she was dismissed. So much of this system is antiquated. They could actually save money using technology: Most of us could be sworn in and use Skype or video questioning and they could at least narrow the pool. I was there from 7: Many of us got rides into the city because we know about the parking - no direct bus route. There is no cafeteria. Pop and junk in vending machines at high prices, and no restaurant in walking distance. They need to re-think the system. Making improvements in jury service does not mean the legal system is broken or not the "best in the world" it just means that we now have the technology to make a complicated, bloated jury system function more smoothly for the times. If that is true, then we should have the right to say no. They will tell you that only free Americans are chosen. What I want to know is were do they get free and jail in the same sentence? Leave us who do work alone. We have families to feed. There may be several people who have committed the crime so they should do their time. So if you all honestly took the time to learn about our country, read the Constitution and our Bill of Rights, and maybe even watch the news or vote for our political leaders, then you would understand about spending one or two days out of your busy lives participating in a service that could possibly

change your views of the judicial system and help someone other than yourself for a change. It goes against everything I stand for. The person that I would be judging did something wrong and that is human. As a fellow human being, I could have easily made the same mistake. And as a separate individual, I did not experience the events that led the person to the crime, so once again who am I to judge? If the government provided proper compensation, a jury system that relied on voluntary service would work, and could use the same screening process as the current one to remove those unqualified for the job. It is precisely because the government does not want to fairly compensate jurors that this current oppressive system exists. I have no desire to want to be on the jury trial. First time, I went at 8 a. Someone stole my honda accord before so I was dismissed true -- not a lie to get out of serving. Two years later, I was picked to sit on a DUI case. It lasted two days. This time my duty was for today friday at Sure enough, I get there at He will be here when he is free, but nobody knows when as he is very busy. About 20 minutes later, the judge comes in. We are then told it will be at least 21 trial days, split up of course, for a civil medical negligence case. We hear 20 more minutes of what an honor it should be for us. Finally, we are asked if we have a legal reason to be excused and to step to the other side of room. Those who are okay fill out papers and come back Monday. Turns out, 65 of us sit and wait to be interviewed by the judge. We sit and wait. The judge comes back and once again tells us what a great honor it is we are presented to serve, etc. Finally gets around to telling us that statistically, 85 jurors are enough to choose from, so we are dismissed, once again telling us what an honor it is for us to have the opportunity to serve and we are missing out on a great experience. Meanwhile, I happened to smile at the girl next to me, who says she has never served, and I get called out by the judge because I must think jury duty is a big laugh and I should serve on a jury. My response was, "Your Honor, I have served on a jury and it is not a laughing matter. So like our government inept wasting our time. Day off work, buy own drinks, gas, food and waste valuable time. Maybe if they were more effective, then instead of making us sit and twiddle our thumbs, and call people to narrow down to nine for a civil trial, maybe the jury for civil cases should be paid. Then I had to wait in line until the clerk was ready to give us a letter saying I was at the courthouse. At least my employer pays for some jury duty. My co-workers cannot believe I get called every two years. The court says it is random picks from drivers licenses. It must be a narrow pool if the same people get picked. And by the way, the case was against an obstetrician for a delivery 13 years ago. I know the doctor and his partners since I am an RN. Most doctors that I know stopped delivering babies because of malpractice insurance costs and just do gynecology.