

Improving Jury Service • No. 155 • 1/05

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General Research

Mooney, Harry; Chen William; and Kraik, Spencer. **“A jury of our peers”: is that right?** *Defense Counsel Journal*, v. 71, no. 2, p. 106 (13 pages), April 2004.

“We offer an analysis of five problems with the existing jury system and five corresponding recommendations that the JPA [Jury Patriotism Act] makes.”

Cutler, Brian L and Hughes, Donna M. **Judging jury service: Results of the North Carolina administrative office of the courts juror survey.** *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, v. 19, no. 2, p. 305 (16 pages), March/April 2001.

“This study examined venirepersons’ and jurors’ levels of satisfaction with jury service. Surveys were distributed to all persons who had reported for state court jury service during two one-week periods in each North Carolina country.”

Boatwright, Robert G. **Generational and age-based differences in attitudes towards jury service.** *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, v. 19, no. 2, p. 285 (20 pages), March/April 2001.

“The article shows that, while there are differences in confidence in the courts by age group, younger jurors are more confident in their own abilities to serve well as jurors but more skeptical of the court as a whole; most differences in attitudes towards jury service are linked to life-cycle phenomena.”

Jury Service Improvements in Other States

Judicial Council of California. **Executive Summary of Task Force on Jury System Improvements Final Report.** (14 pages) April 15, 2003, Revised April 2004.

“The accompanying report not only details the efforts made to achieve the commission’s recommendations, but also reiterates the task force’s support for certain legislative initiatives, rules of court, and suggestions for improving court practices that either did not become law initially or were deferred for later consideration.”

[Maryland] Council on Jury Use and Management. **Report and Recommendations.** (19 pages), April 12, 2000.

“Council recommendations include and concern: the inclusiveness and representativeness of juror pools; the length of juror service; the management of jury trials; the deliberation process of juries; the administrative aspects of jury management; and the accommodations provided to jurors.”

Nevada Jury Improvement Commission. **Executive Summary of Justice by the people.** (13 pages), October 2002.

“Other recommendations focus on the way citizens are summoned to jury duty and treated while they perform this vital public service. It is necessary for citizens to understand that jury duty is not just a responsibility, but a right as well.”

Vitulo-Martin, Julia; Maxey, Brian; and Cesarini, Chris.

Five years of jury reform: What [New York] jurors are saying. (70 pages), August 2000.

“This report analyzes the substantive reforms as well as citizen experience with the reforms in Manhattan and Brooklyn over the five years since the Jury Project report.”

Ohio Task Force on Jury Service. **Report and Recommendations of the Supreme Court of Ohio Task Force on Jury Service.** (54 pages), February 2004.

“These recommendations cover a broad range of topics, including juror comfort, convenience, compensation, selections and education. These recommendations are designed to improve prospective juror response to a jury summons and providing the best possible experience while they fulfill their civic duty.”

Washington State Jury Commission. **Report to the Board for Judicial Administration.** (31 pages), July 2000.

“The Commission has given the highest priority to increasing juror fees, although all of its recommendations are important steps towards improving jury service. Increased fees will not only address the currently inequity in juror compensation, but will also contribute to more economically and ethnically diverse juries by enabling a broader segment of the population to serve.”

Sanctioning "Failure to Appear"

Saltzman, Jonathan. **Massachusetts gets tough on jury delinquents.** *Boston Globe*, p. A1 (3 pages), September 26, 2004.

“Over the past eight years, the tougher stance has helped cut by half the percentage of jury duty dodgers, and state officials are planning new measures to drive down non-compliance even further.”

Guccione, Jean. **Jury duty scofflaws get hit in the pocket-book.** *Los Angeles Times*, p. B2 (3 pages), August 16, 2002.

“Harper is one of thousands of Los Angeles County residents being threatened with big fines for failing to report for jury duty. The crackdown is part of a country-wide effort to triple the number of potential jurors under the new one-trial system, under which most jurors spend significantly less time at the courthouse.”

Daniels, Cynthia. **Jury service no-shows get the word: No excuses.** *Los Angeles Times*, p. B2 (2 pages), July 2, 2004.

“The absentees will receive letters from the court confirming the sanction, along with a demand for \$250 from a collection agency. From January to May, the court

sanctioned more than 22,000 prospective jurors, who were ordered to pay a total of more than \$718,000.”

Whiting, Brent. **Elderly are not exempted from serving on jury.** *Arizona Republic*, p. 1B (3 pages), July 18, 2004.

“For a 91-year-old Sun City woman, it was bad enough to be summoned for jury duty in downtown Phoenix. Elinore Jones said that even if she had the transportation to get there, she is too feeble to get around the courthouse, much less sit through a trial.”

Whiting, Brent. **Lawmakers may revisit jury duty law: Elderly are calling for age exemption.** *Arizona Republic*, p. 1B (2 pages), August 2, 2004.

“An elderly Surprise woman says she broke down and cried after she was summoned last month to report for jury duty. And Arizona lawmakers say they may take a new look at the 2003 law that is the source of Mildred Benton’s grief.”

Reform Through Model Legislation

Carter, Terry. **Jury Duty as a patriot act.** *ABA Journal*, v. 89, no. 6, p. 24 (3 pages), June 2003.

“An organization sometimes known for pushing tort reform is now behind legislation that confuses some of its critics: The proposals aren’t concerned with run-away juries, but instead seek to have more people actually serve on juries when called.”

Behrens, Mark A. and Gramling, Edward O. **Improving the Jury System in Kansas: A call for jury patriotism legislation.** *Kansas Journal of Law & Public Policy*, v. 13, no. 2, p. 1 (12 pages), Winter 2003/2004.

“This article highlights several key problems with the current jury system in Kansas. It then explains how the ALEC model act would address these issues. It concludes that jury service improvements legislation based on ALEC’s model act should be enacted in Kansas.”

Other Approaches to Improve Jury Participation

Barro, Robert J. **Pleading the case for a paid-jury system.** *Business Week*, no. 3792, p. 20 (2 pages), July 22, 2002.

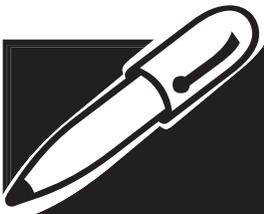
“My suggestion is that some jurisdictions experiment with paid systems for jury service. Within a jurisdiction, those who enlist for juries would be paid market wages. The system could be financed within the jurisdiction or, alternatively, through the states or Washington.”

Englehardt, Leah T. & Steinbrink, John E. **Teaching students about their civic obligation: Jury duty.** *Social Studies*, v. 92, no. 2, p. 61 (4 pages), March/April 2001.

This article about the importance of teaching the importance of jury duty includes a bibliography and a two-day lesson plan on jury duty as civic obligation.

Kole, Janet S. **Care and feeding of jurors.** *Litigation*, no. 30, p. 43 (8 pages), Winter 2004.

"I have a few suggestions for the bench as well as the bar on how to keep jurors from falling asleep and from seething with rage, the two most prevalent states during the week of jury duty."



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Suggested Internet Sites (Last Accessed January 2005)

The Center for Jury Studies

<<http://www.ncsconline.org/Juries/home.htm>>

Site includes links to reports and other publications related to jury service, plus offers the free weekly newsletter "Jur-E Bulletin." This newsletter includes information on happenings in the jury world, including media coverage, prominent court decisions, and other developments of "all things jury."

Jury Management Resource Guide

<http://www.ncsconline.org/WC/Education/KIS_JurManGuide.pdf>

From the National Council on state courts, this PDF file has live links to jury management resources and papers.

Response to the Jury Summons Bibliography (Superior Court of Arizona)

<<http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/lawlibrary/Documents/Html/Bibliographies/JurorResponse.asp>>

A listing of books, reports, newspaper and journal articles on potential juror recruitment. Some outside links to other resources are available.

Citizens Jury Project

<<http://www.juryproject.org>>

An informational resource for potential and serving jurors in the New York Unified Court System. Includes reports and articles, plus restaurant recommendations for serving jurors unfamiliar with a courthouse neighborhood.

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