

Importance of Jury Duty



Message from the Chief Presiding Judge

Welcome Juror,

You have been summoned for jury service. Your participation as a juror is just as important as the judge's and the attorneys' in the courtroom. Your role as a juror is to get a full understanding of the facts of a criminal case, to evaluate the evidence, and to make an impartial and fair decision. The outcome of a trial by jury relies on you. Therefore, we ask you to discharge your duty with care, honesty, and good conscience. We hope your jury service will be a rewarding, interesting, and positive experience.

Our court system strives for fairness to everyone who comes before it, and the core of this fairness is Trial by Jury. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson listed the fact that the citizens of the Colonies had been deprived of the benefits of Trial by Jury as one of the injuries perpetrated by the King of Great Britain. As citizens of this Country, if we are accused of certain criminal acts, we have the right to a Trial by Jury. By the same token, we have the responsibility to act when called upon to serve as a juror. Like the privilege of voting, jury duty is one significant way we can participate in the democratic process. The people of the United States of America rely upon jurors for the protection of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

As a juror, you will play an important role in the American system of justice. You do not need any special skills or legal knowledge to be a juror. Potential jurors are men and women of good judgment, honesty, and objectivity. Jurors need to keep an open mind and be willing to make decisions free of personal opinions and prejudices. Your public service as a juror protects our Constitutional right to have a trial by an impartial jury. The protection of our rights and liberties is accomplished through the teamwork of judge and jury, who, working together in a mutual effort, put into practice the principles of our heritage of freedom.

I sincerely appreciate your time and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Don Taylor III", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

*B. Don Taylor III, Chief Presiding Judge
Phoenix Municipal Court*

Jury Center Location 300 West Washington Street, 1st Floor Phoenix, AZ 85003

Hours 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday thru Friday)

Contacts Web: www.phoenix.gov/jury Recorded Message: 602-534-9931 E-mail: jury.duty@phoenix.gov