

Jury Service Exit Questionnaire

Part II

Final Results (N=1,320)

The Florida Supreme Court's Jury Innovations Committee conducted a Jury Service Exit Questionnaire to gain knowledge on juror experiences. The questionnaire was administered by court administration and Clerks of Court during the summer of 2000. The following are final results of data collected.

1. Please identify the city in which you served.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Apalachicola	14	1.1%		Ocala	22 1.7%
Bonifay Springs	1	0.1%		Orlando	168 12.7%
Bradenton	21	1.6%		Palatka	4 0.3%
Brooksville	38	2.9%		Palm Beach	27 2.0%
Cape Coral	1	0.1%		Panama City	1 0.1%
Clearwater	53	4.0%		Pensacola	15 1.1%
Coral Springs	1	0.1%		Perry	1 0.1%
Crawfordville	1	0.1%		Pinellas Park	6 0.5%
Cross City	1	0.1%		Port St. Lucie	3 0.2%
Daytona Beach	21	1.6%		Riverview	1 0.1%
DeFuniak Springs	1	0.1%	Sanford	14	1.1%
Deland	1	0.1%		Sarasota	21 1.6%
Dunedin	1	0.1%		St. Augustine	12 0.9%
Fort Lauderdale	216	16.4%		St. Cloud	1 0.1%
Fort Myers	102	7.7%		St. Petersburg	15 1.1%
Fort Pierce	37	2.8%		Stuart	4 0.3%
Gainesville	1	0.1%		Tallahassee	24 1.8%
Inverness		7 0.5%		Tampa	52 3.9%
Jacksonville	14	1.1%	Tavares	22	1.7%
Kissimmee	54	4.1%		Titusville	2 0.2%
LaBelle	4	0.3%		Trenton	1 0.1%
Largo	2	0.2%		Venice	6 0.5%
Leesburg	4	0.3%		Vero Beach	1 0.1%
Lehigh Acres	1	0.1%		Viera	2 0.2%
Live Oak	14	1.1%	Wauchula	4	0.3%
Melbourne	6	0.5%		Winter Haven	1 0.1%
Miami	13	1.0%		Winter Park	1 0.1%
Naples	4	0.3%		No Response	255 19.3%

2. Employment - What is your occupation?

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Accounting/Bookkeeping	30	2.3%	Construction	6	0.5%
Administrative/Support	56	4.2%	Student	14	1.1%
Advertising	1	0.1%	Professor/Teacher	44	3.3%
Artists/Galleries	8	0.6%	Unemployed	6	0.5%
Automotive	11	0.8%	Restaurant	1	0.1%
Aviation/Aerospace	7	0.5%	Banking/Financial	19	1.4%
Business Analyst	3	0.2%	Electronics	5	0.4%
Buyer	2	0.2%	Self Employed	9	0.7%
Child Care Provider	2	0.2%	Consultant	15	1.1%
Food Service/Chef	18	1.4%	Emergency Medical Services	1	0.1%
Correctional Officer	2	0.2%	Pharmaceutical	3	0.2%
Counselor	7	0.5%	Editor	2	0.2%
Custodian/Maintenance	12	0.9%	Hair/Beauty Services	6	0.5%
Customer Service	6	0.5%	Contractors	1	0.1%
Disabled	4	0.3%	Skill Laborer	26	2.0%
Electrician	7	0.5%	Dispatcher	3	0.2%
Engineer	17	1.3%	Security	3	0.2%
Entertainment/Recreation	6	0.5%	Transportation/Warehousing	22	1.7%
Government	25	1.9%	Funeral Director	1	0.1%
Health Care/Medical	30	2.3%	Human Resources	7	0.5%
Homemaker	20	1.5%	Fire/Rescue	2	0.2%
Hotel/Motel Management	2	0.2%	Telecommunications	5	0.4%
Computer/Information Systems	19	1.4%	Manager/Coordinator	37	21.8%
Insurance	10	0.8%	No Response/Unknown	559	42.3%
Legal Profession	16	1.2%			
Media	3	0.2%			
Military	1	0.1%			
Real Estate	13	1.0%			
Retired	112	8.5%			
Retail/Sales/Marketing	73	5.5%			

3. Jury System Improvements - In your opinion who, if anyone, should be exempt from jury duty?

(n=542 or 41.1%)

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Anyone, if requested, for any reason	43	7.9%	
Biased	12	2.2%	
Care-givers	78	14.4%	
Conscious Objections	6	1.1%	
Public Servants	6	1.1%	
Critical Jobs (sole provider, self employed)	50	9.2%	
Current Exemption List	35	6.5%	
Disabled/Handicapped		94	17.3%
Doctor's Excuse/Patients	2	0.4%	
Don't Know/Understand	8	1.5%	
Drug/Alcohol Past	2	0.4%	
Education Professionals	6	1.1%	
Elderly	99	18.3%	
Emergencies	9	1.7%	
Expected Mothers	21	3.9%	
Felons	21	3.9%	
Full Time College Students	6	1.1%	
Hardship/Burden	79	14.6%	
Medically Ill	76	14.0%	
Language Barrier	8	1.5%	
Law Enforcement	31	5.7%	
Legal Professionals	16	3.0%	
Mentally Ill	33	6.1%	
Military	3	0.6%	
Non Citizens	2	0.4%	
Non Legal Professionals	1	0.2%	
Physicians	9	1.7%	
Previous Commitments	9	1.7%	
Previous Service	2	0.4%	
Single Parents	23	4.2%	
Transportation Difficulties	14	2.6%	
Unable to apply law/facts or give proper attention	11	2.0%	
Employer does not pay for absence	10	1.8%	
Uneducated	2	0.4%	
No One	41	7.6%	
Essential Services (EMS, Firefighter)	6	1.1%	
Situation Dictates	8	1.5%	
Specific Young Age Groups	6	1.1%	
Volunteers of Community Service	1	0.2%	
Family of Law Enforcement or Attorneys	4	0.7%	
People involved in a case	2	0.4%	
Full Time Homemaker	3	0.6%	
Media	1	0.2%	

4. **Jury System Improvements - From which source list(s) should potential jurors be selected?**

Responses to “Other” (n=80 or 6.1%)

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
All source lists provided	13	16.3%
Anyone missed in source lists provided	4	5.0%
Census	4	5.0%
Citizens/Permanent Residents	8	10.0%
Elderly	2	2.5%
Felons	1	1.3%
Florida Identification	3	3.8%
Legal Professionals	2	2.5%
Low income welfare recipients	1	1.3%
None of the source lists provided	1	1.3%
Not Sure	1	1.3%
Persons over 18	3	3.8%
Professional Associations	2	2.5%
Public Records	1	1.3%
Register to become a juror	2	2.5%
Retired Persons	2	2.5%
Social Security Number	4	5.0%
Tax Records	2	2.5%
Telephone Directory	2	2.5%
Volunteers	9	11.3%
Every 5 Years	1	1.3%
College Enrollment Rosters	1	1.3%
Average I.Q. Scores	1	1.3%
Unemployed	3	3.8%
Property Owners	1	1.3%
Unknown	9	7.5%

5. Comments

Jurors should not deliberate past 6:00.

I strongly feel if someone is found guilty they should be held responsible for all lost wages of jurors. Any money earned while serving time should be placed in a pool and paid to jurors. It should not be the responsibility of the county to pay jurors. The same should be for all court appointed attorneys. They should be paid out of a pool.

The courthouse-Jury assembly room is too small for number of jurors summoned; desk in jury assembly room should be staffed full-time; no coffee or snack shop at courthouse.

Keep up the good work. I think jury duty is a civic duty that all residents should gladly accept and participate in.

It would have been helpful to have been given written definitions of charges and lesser charges. We as a jury had to make all written requests to the judge. It should have been provided when we went to the jury room to deliberate.

It was very uncomfortable sitting in those chairs all week.

In lengthy trials, I strongly believe you should be able to have portions of witness/police reports reread to the jury and/ or be permitted to take notes.

I found jury duty to be a very enlightening experience on the working of the court system. The bailiffs and the judge were very thoughtful of our needs.

To repeat my comment from 10-h, the judge has too much discretion in determining punishment. Jurors should have more input.

The call-in system for jurors is cumbersome and time consuming. The telephone line is frequently busy. To call in at 10:30 a.m. in order to know if one is to report for duty, is an inconvenience, wastes time, disrupts work schedules, etc. It seems to me that the determination for jury duty could be made the evening before and given at the 6:00 p.m. call-in.

I was not picked to serve for the proceedings.

I had to travel 86 miles (round trip) for 2 days; travel at 6 a.m. the first day in order to report at 8a.m.; and gas costs \$1.47 per gallon . The \$15 per day pay just about paid for that. I had to serve on a jury the 2nd day, so that meant that lunch expenses were out of pocket too. There were 285 people called, but not 285 utilized for the 4 days. I called Thursday evening and all jurors were excused for Friday. You need to have more judges hearing cases each day to use the courtroom facilities, and jurors who show up to be excused at 11:00 a.m. the first day of reporting. You need to use the people who show up more efficiently throughout the weeks they are serving.

I was chosen for a case, but it was postponed to a latter date.

Better chairs.

I was very disappointed that I was not selected. I would have considered it an honor to serve on a jury. I hope I will be considered to serve sometime soon.

I am called repeatedly, but never serve due to Law Enforcement employment, family and friends. I wish the "pre-screen" was better so as not to waste "anyone's" time.

We were dismissed after both sides rested their case. We would have preferred to be told more about why we were only told that the accused was acquitted.

I know many people who are rarely or never selected. This is my fifth or sixth time. What's with that? Is there a fairer system?

Could you have the judges explain why the request to be excused from jury duty was denied. I feel that judges may not fully understand the role of the PPCNP (Psychiatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioners) and how they practice.

I want to serve again.

You need better refreshments in the contained jury room.

After lunch they had legal problems and we waited almost 50 minutes before going back into court. Then I was told I could leave. Defense attorney kept asking the same question over and over again.

Long wait.

Some people I know have never been summoned for jury duty, and others are called all the time. Why?

I strongly believe that this system is in need of changes.

There needs to be a more efficient method in the court process. This is very wasteful of jurors' time. Waiting for hours in stuffy, cramped quarters is liked being punished. 1) You should re-engineer the process so that you have a firm trial before jurors are called in. You would need to call less people in. 2) You should make the juror waiting area more juror-friendly; larger, more open areas; food services; cubicles for people to work while they wait; outside areas for non-smokers. Parking near by would be nice. Jurors should be treated like VIP's, not Prisoners. We need people to do their civic duty, but please don't make us suffer. I dread being called. Its bad enough losing your freedom, but at least make it a comfortable and pleasant incarceration!

I was in a group of 20 prospective jurors. There were seats for only 18 in the jury box. I and another gentlemen sat in the spectator's area and were never asked questions who we were or anything else during voir dire. The max limit, seems to me, should be 18 to be selected if there are only 18 to be selected from. The other man and I seemed to be just along for the ride. This is not common sense to me.

I was interviewed on one panel early in the morning and never called again. It was very discouraging to give up a day, be excited to serve, and then left sitting for 8 hours. I'll try to find an excuse next time. You could have called 1/2 as many people.

The amount of time for jurors waiting was outrageous. I am educated and a law abiding citizen. I was willing to participate, however the system did not choose me. This time was useless.

You should revisit the process of calling in 300 people who end up sitting most of the day.

You should attempt to eliminate the sitting and waiting.

The trial was too long due to the length of time that it took to select a jury. The attorneys took too long with their questions which were repeated over and over. There were too many discussions with the judge. The actual testimony was less than half of the length of the whole proceedings.

Lunch should be provided.

A little too long.

I lost my employment due to the duration of the trial, so I feel that I should be able to collect Florida unemployment compensation.

We could use a cafeteria (A) in cases of inclement weather (B) as a service for those with limited mobility who wish to serve.

A court appointed community service could handle those who fail to report for jury duty. I was called, but didn't get seated. It seems that the matching of jurors with needed cases would be done more efficiently. "Lots of jurors just sitting in assembly". Speedy trial doesn't seem to fit jury allocations.

The majority of jurors by far seems to be White. Where are the Hispanics and Blacks? How do they get out of serving? Are they just not reporting? Are they being penalized for not reporting? Orange County's population is not 90% White, which seems to be the percentage of jurors reporting.

I am currently visiting to guide my wife, who is serving on jury as was summoned this day. As a visitor, I am very pleased and quite comfortable in this new facility. Employees are courteous and that makes my visit very relaxing.

I feel that unless you get into a panel, that the day is a waste. It would be good to get us something useful to do while we are waiting.

I have been here for jury service 4 times, but was never used.

Accommodations were very pleasant and people were very courteous. A good experience.

I hated waiting in the jury assembly. It made me bored and angry. There should at least be a TV for us to watch. Additionally, it's not fair that we wait 3 hours until called. That's ridiculous!

On the letter or summons list tips for the jury assembly room such as: bring reading material, a jacket and snacks.

Lower vending machine prices or provide meal vouchers for those of us who couldn't go to work today to get and cash paychecks.

I've not as yet served as a juror. Both cases so far have been canceled and we are still waiting to see if we'll be needed again this evening. I cannot fill out this questionnaire completely because of this.

How about some Bibles scattered among the magazines, for whoever wants to read them?

Wider range of reading material provided.

I don't like jury duty. I get nervous.

I didn't expect it to be a good experience. It was a great experience. It's our honor.

The waiting in the Jury Assembly room is much too long.

Recliners so some people can relax.

I don't appreciate having to serve 2 times in the last 2 years.

You could have a set amount of jurors arrive at 8:00. If not called upon, let them go at 12:00 and have the second set arrive at that time. Then people not on a jury could go home and not be so tired and worn out by end of day. It is now 3:00 and if I had to serve on a jury now I might fall asleep. Of course my comment is made without a lot of knowledge of this department.

1. Television with reception should be available. 2. Better scheduling to eliminate the need for me to be here all day and do nothing.

Overall services were great. I strongly believe that they should call on people. I would like to do it. Good for retirees and students so that they can learn.

I was never called. I sat here all day and my number was never called. When I asked, they said I was in the system. To me, it was a wasted day. I am self employed. I did not accomplish anything today. You need better checks and balances so this will not happen.

Do something about the waiting; seeing when and if you get picked to go up and be picked for jury.

It would be more convenient if half days were an alternative, especially for those not chosen to sit on a jury.

Cable TV in waiting rooms. Better use of time.

You should only have to be able to serve 1/2 day unless called for a trial. Then, no payment for services should be given.

Rather than require all potential jurors to show up at 8:00 a.m. and stay for the day, you could have half report at 8:00 a.m. till noon if not selected, and the other half report after lunch till closing. The majority of the jurors in my group wasted a full day of potentially gainful employment.

A very good experience, a pleasure to serve.

Judge Lawrence Kirkwood is the most useless person on the bench. The man does nothing and is totally uninspired and lacks any intelligence or fairness in the legal system. My quest is to have him voted off of the bench!

Overall a good job was done in Orlando. It was much better in the new courthouse.

Better directions to parking garage - better yet, parking right here.

I don't understand how this trial could take place without a victim testifying.

Provide ice water in the pitcher provided in the jury deliberation room. Thank you. Also, TV/VCR's in deliberation rooms would be helpful.

Everything went well.

Change of larger bills for vending machines needs to be more accessible.

The map could include the south side from Universal to downtown. A note could be put on to indicate go to 1st floor of parking garage and take limousine. Orange County courts are #1; well organized.

Indoor smoking area.

Better seats with padded seats.

More comfortable seating arrangements.

We all provide the same service so everyone on jury duty should be paid the same!!

The few people that don't get picked should be allowed to go home.

You need to cut down on long waiting periods, speed up process some how.

Too much waiting time.

Need coffee and cold water in deliberation room.

Coffee cups and sweetener in the jury suite.

Furnish coffee cups.

I feel that serving on a jury is a good thing for everyone to be a part of. I have had a good experience with the court system and feel that everyone should have that experience.

Send out Times video on court. It can be seen on channel 18, so it can be viewed before coming to court.

Clean the water. It is awful and tastes bad, very, very, bad.

I'm not sure if it's a good idea to question all prospective jurors together. In my service 60 potential jurors were called to a case and questioned together. Many were very vocal and opinionated and could have swayed others. Also, lawyers should be limited to either the number of questions they ask the potential jurors, or given a time limit. On this case only the plaintiff's lawyers questioned the jury. He wasn't done after 2 full days of questioning. It was too long.

I do not object to serving, but would appreciate not having to drive to the furthest court (in distance) from my home. Time and stress of driving for an hour each way, plus the expense of gasoline is a hardship.

Postponed should be extended to 6- 8 months.

I enjoyed serving on the jury. Being a law student, it gave me a new perspective about how the law works.

1) Overall the experience was very positive. 2) There should be a greater sensitivity to non-English speaking jurors. 3) There should be better time management. 4) There should be staggered reporting times. 5) Jurors are too close in proximity to criminal defendants. 6) The system is biased against people with opinions.

Light refreshments should be available for jurors at no cost. Water should be available in courtroom (small bottles). Explanation of meaning of verdicts should be given to jurors in writing to refer to during deliberations.

The term "N/A." probably means not applicable, but it is nowhere defined on this paper.

Regarding the 4 week trial, perhaps we could have been told prior to entering the courtroom to prepare ourselves. Video said 1-3 days maximum. Regarding parking, the shuttle was too risky, parking was costly.

We should have been notified sooner of the delay!!

The court personnel, upon entering the building, are not always friendly, helpful, or efficient.

Duval County courthouse is antiquated. We were seated for hours on hard wooden benches, crammed together. Bathroom facilities are barely adequate.

Very enlightening experience. It will be much easier the next time. Having to go into downtown Tampa at 8 a.m. on a Monday morning can be a very frightening experience for some people.

The jury room was extremely cold. I felt sick from it afterwards and I could not get my hands warm for some time. First, at the lunch break and then, after 2 1/2 hours in the afternoon to the close of the case. The air-conditioning was set too low! It made me very uncomfortable and at times, I found it hard to concentrate.

The lighting should be more conducive to reading and doing paperwork. The temperature could be more moderate. Since we are all adults, allowing jurors to drink coffee or cokes in jury room would be nice. Consider having 1/2 days could have an a.m. check-in and a p.m. check-in.

If a prospective juror is to be challenged for cause or a peremptory challenge is going to be used the juror should be released prior to the end of the entire selection process.

The Jury room was depressing, dirty, paint peeling, just plain ugly. Court Room B was unfit, inadequate, and not enough room. Plaintiff had to climb over defendant. We moved twice. The judge even said this is starting to look like a Chinese fire drill.

I don't really believe that all 12 jurors need to be unanimous in their decision. I believe 10 out of 12 would be more fair in the event you have an individual who is on the jury that is unwilling to deliberate or has a judgement formed prior to deliberation.

It seems like some cases should never go to trial. They are a waste of taxpayer time and money. Too many people abuse the judicial system.

Have people report to one case and allow them to leave once they have reported to that one case, whether they are chosen or not. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with nothing to do is a long day. The jury summons should explain what to expect in the day more specifically. (Maybe include the Jury Information Sheet) All people were very nice and helpful!

I enjoyed jury service, and I am happy to do my part. I would volunteer for service, if such a service existed. Many who are called are inconvenienced. Persons such as myself are not inconvenienced, and would be willing to ride a bicycle if called more regularly.

Jurors should serve in a courthouse nearest their residence.

1) Legal conferences between judge and jurors were far too long. During 1 day we heard 1/2 hour of testimony during 1 eight hour day. 2) Jury break room and bathrooms (2) were too cramped for 12 jurors plus 2 alternates. (3) Transcripts of testimony should be given to jury when they request it, especially when note taking is not permitted.

The selection process was very lengthy (1/2 day). It was difficult to make a decision on evidence when part of the evidence was missing. Decision for "guilty" was based on logic and missing evidence from personal experiences of jury members.

My questions' answers are from my jury services in 1998.

Potential jurors should not be selected from voters registration. I know a lot of people that do not register to vote because they did not want to be called for jury duty. Jurors that do not get paid the day for jury duty should be compensated with at least \$30. My employer does not pay me for this and I can't afford it.

Need comfortable seats and a café with hot food or fresh sandwiches.

The court should have a cafeteria instead of vending machines.

Held in limbo too long. Need to speed up selection process then release the ones not called to serve.

I don't think the jury should see the defendant before the actual trial. There should be some type of one-way mirror or something.

The insufferable waiting until the next round is called.

Too much waiting!

A room large enough to accommodate all potential panelists in one room, or extend the room to external breeze way to eliminate confusion of people in the halls, etc.

I found this to be an exciting experience. It reinforced my positive beliefs of the justice system.

Try not to call the same people over and over. I've been called 3 times in 4 years, as have several others I've known or spoken to. At least, give more than 3 years between summons.

A person should not be kept all day if he is not selected for the first time. When he or she is not selected on the first time they should be able to go. It is a full day of hanging around.

Panels should be preselected before jurors arrive. It would speed up the process and we wouldn't have to sit around all day.

I think all people should be paid by their employer to do this civic duty. If they are not paid by their employer, I think they should be paid the average daily wage of a civil servant.

Change jury room to downstairs in snack bar. The court room was cold and uncomfortable.

Coffee should be provided in jury assembly room. On the 1st day I was there, some people did not have money to buy coffee from the machine or soft drink either. Also, maybe if people knew ahead of time to not

wear shorts, etc., they would take a bath and dress better.

Rewarding experience. I would have liked to serve longer.

The court needs to pay a lot more money for being a juror and let people pick a day that is convenient for them. We all have busy work lives and \$15 doesn't pay the bills. Update your jury service and people will want to serve. Don't force people to do something they don't want to do. This is the year 2000, not 1800!!! Get with the program!

I believe judges should be appointed by our elected chief circuit judge who has a 5 year term. The subordinate judges should be appointed for a 5 year term. Judges should be subject to recall by the voters.

I think that a person should not have to be summoned for jury duty twice or more. I think that an individual should be able to decide for themselves if they want to be a juror and not be forced to be one if they don't feel good about it or comfortable with it. Thank you kindly.

Instead of each judge explaining in detail how the judicial system works, show a video to all in the assembly room while we wait hours on end. The whole waiting process needs to be shortened. You are asking us to gladly serve, but waste way too much of our time.

I believe in the American Court System. Sometimes it works, other times it doesn't. I think we are too lenient with the inmates. It take too long for death row convicts. We spend too much money. It could go to rehabilitate younger inmates. Rather than see them become hardened convicts, make inmates serve the largest portion of their sentence before they are considered for release. Put them on a farm and let them grow their own food. Pay them to work. No work, no eat! Let them know it's not free anymore.

Judge Monaco was very fair, clear and helpful.

My time was wasted by going to serve on the jury. I am a disabled person and I can't do too much of anything. That's why you should ask people to serve on the jury because you simply don't know what condition they are in.

Too much liberality to those who commit crimes, too little consideration to the victim. Criminals should not get off for technicalities when they are guilty. They did something wrong and should be punished. That is justice. They should pay in full for their crimes, not get out early, especially murderers, rapists, stalkers, sexual predators and repeat offenders.

The jury I served on was a "hung jury". The vote was 11 to 1. The one juror thought he/she was being ganged up on and I don't believe understood what it meant to deliberate. Thus he/she refused to truly discuss the possibility of changing his/her vote.

Call fewer jurors at a time so fewer of us sit around all day and then get released. I estimate at least half of us were extras.

Keeps jurors more closely informed of the reasons for delay.

The process is ok. Although it is disappointing to have your number called for a judge only to be thrown back into the pool. I also question the fact that everyone is in such a hurry to go home that they might give "just agree" to get the trial over with.

I was not selected to serve on the jury. I was questioned three times by one attorney as to if I knew him. I am

new to the community and know few people and any respectable citizen would not lie in such questioning.

Some responses were left blank because I did not actually serve as a sitting juror for a trial. All of the potential jurors were excused after waiting about 2 1/2 hours because the trial was not actually held on that date after all.

I was not informed that note taking was not acceptable; the defense attorney noticed just before a break and the judge explained why; that if only one juror takes notes and makes a mistake, the others might rely on the notes.

It would be beneficial to have more public education about the role of the juror and the trial process. When you are serving as a juror, it is fascinating to observe the court process. More people should be encouraged to participate in that process.

The questions I failed to answer were inappropriate to my court experience, since I did not sit on any case. As to the fairness of the Florida Courts, I am not knowledgeable enough about them to have an opinion.

People under 21 are not mature enough to handle jury service, and many adults do not have the proper amount of respect for young people and their ideas.

Wish there had been drinks other than coffee and tea available. Perhaps juice or soda?

That the courts make more of an effort to dismiss those jurors who have not been selected in a more timely manner. I spent most of the day at the courthouse and I could have been excused at 11:45. More communication between the courts and the jury.

The defendant appeared to be wearing the same clothes each day of the three-day trial. On multiple occasions, the prosecutor asked witnesses to identify the defendant by what the defendant was wearing, almost as if intentionally drawing attention to this.

The TV was bothersome to those of us who preferred to read to pass the time. Could you somehow separate the "TV watching area"? Thanks for the coffee!

Just to inform you, while on this day of service, I was a reserve juror during the day. They never took me into a courtroom to serve on a jury. That is why I did not answer the questions regarding the judge or the lawyers.

If jurors are not needed, they should be notified as soon as possible. I sat there until 3:30 until I was told I could leave.

See you next time.

The room where the jurors awaited being called upon, had terrible lighting. It promoted a depressed feeling. It made it hard to read any materials a person might have brought with them to kill time with.

The system is very inefficient. Too much of the juror/potential juror's time is spent waiting for something to happen. Jurors with biases or experience that will cause them to be rejected should have this detected earlier and should be eliminated at that time.

From the moment I pulled my car into the lot until I turned in my stamped parking card it was a seamless, pleasant experience for me. Everyone was courteous, helpful and in good spirits. It was well organized and I was made to feel welcomed and appreciated.

College students should not be picked during the school year or during the weeks of finals or midterms.

By having the surveys mailed in prior to service and the information compiled into a database, this information could be given to the attorneys, who would then pre-qualify jurors. This would require less people having to physically attend.

The process of having 250 potential jurors report and then using a small percentage of them is inefficient, wasteful and an insult to the potential jurors. It considers their time as useless and unimportant. Questionnaires should be completed and returned.

Turn up the AC. It was cold in the courthouse.

Snack bar had no change or no coffee in coffee machine on a Monday morning.

I do not believe in the jury system. If I need a plumber or an electrician, I hire a professional. I do not know the law, and jurors do not know the law and cannot be impartial. Juries should be composed of legal professionals who are knowledgeable of the law.

The one thing I don't understand is why some are called to serve more often than others. Case in point, I was called to serve less than a year and a half ago and I know many who haven't served at all since the change over to driver licenses.

Make it less of an inconvenience. Improve parking. Waiting time is excruciating. Up the salary a bit. Many folks have to take off work & don't necessarily get paid. Those people rarely can afford to be docked and the joke of a check is just not enough.

Unfortunately I know someone whose trial date was reset so many times I can't remember. It took over two years before he went to trial. Then, he's had the sentencing date rescheduled four times over a period of four months. He's still waiting.

Compliments to the staff and the folks who are the first point of contact with the public. They are to be commended for patiently dealing with people who would rather be elsewhere.

It seems to me that you have a wonderful opportunity to inform a captive audience of the current events in the community. This could possibly be done by using the TV monitors or use this as a courthouse resource opportunity.

The clerk who gave the initial jury introduction, Ms. Nancy Buchman, I noted, did so in a particularly competent and warm manner. She made all feel at ease and welcomed.

When requesting people to complete and mail the "paper" form of this questionnaire, a postage-paid envelope should accompany it. This would increase the returns on "paper" questionnaires.

I would like to see more training in the jury room to the persons waiting to be called, explained in more detail the process that is involved as a juror even if you are not chosen. The time lapse is crazy if you are not one to be picked.

Move the process along faster. I was chosen as one of 16, at 10 a.m., sent to lunch from 11:45 to 1:30, judge returned at 1:40 and dismissed, not picked, at 2:30.

The waiting room was freezing!!! All crimes should be punished and all time served to the full extent of the

sentence; no early releases!!!

Opportunity should be given for concerns of jurors to be expressed privately about their ability or willingness to serve and why.

Comfort, respect and courtesy should be shown to all potential jurors.

At one point, the potential Jury was left standing in the hallway, waiting to enter the courtroom. In this hallway was also the defendant, and witnesses. This was very uncomfortable. Also, entering and exiting the courtroom was through a public hallway.

As a mother of three kids and earning social security income, I can't afford to pay \$12,900 or something like that and my old car insurance refuses to answer my letter or phone call. I want my old car insurance to pay for that person who suffers hurt.

After sitting in the jury assembly room for over six (6)hours and not being called for duty, the day cost me: \$16.50 for automobile mileage (55 miles @\$0.30/mile), \$ 4.50 for food (lunch), Total \$21.00 which exceeds payment.

A person shouldn't have to report by 8:00 a.m. and be held until 3:50 p.m. if they aren't on a jury. This was my experience and I resent it strongly. My time is important too. Why should I have to give up an entire day because the judges and attorneys can't get it together.

It is frightening to think that the rest of someone's life will be decided by 12 people who have nothing better to do than collect \$15.00 per day to make that decision.

I could not comment on all the sections because I was in voir dire for a jury, but not empaneled. Jacksonville's staff was very professional and courteous throughout the day.

I was disappointed that I was called but did not get to serve.

As I said in the beginning I did not serve on a jury, I only reported and was not needed so I was excused. There needs to be a way to answer N/A where it applies in this questionnaire.

I did not serve on jury, but for a full day I sat with a group of my peers as potential jurors on one case. There were no comforts for jurors. The benches were like rocks and seating was limited. There was no convenient place for us to get refreshments of any kind.

I noted considerable improvements had been made to summon citizens and permit service accommodations. In Orange County I found comfortable surroundings, open voir dire allowing opinion, reasonable explanations of the law, and generally good security.

For me, the length was just enough for a very good experience.

The light in the central jury auditorium was very poor; too poor to read by.

This was my third opportunity to serve as a juror, and the first time a judge came into the jury room after the case was completed, and spoke to the jurors, asking us if we had questions. I appreciated that.

While I enjoyed the experience, everyone knew from the moment that I disclosed my occupation that neither side would dare to pick me. Judge should have asked the parties at sidebar if there was any reason to keep me.

I was there until 6:00 p.m. only to be excused.

Our case was dismissed after lunch on evidence, I believe, was available before we started. It seemed like a waste of time and money to start the trial to dismiss 1/2 hour into the trial with this evidence.

The system should be revised so that certain people don't keep getting called while others have never been. For example, I have been called 6 times in the last 10 years and got off once because it had not been 12 months. My wife has never been called.

This form is way too long. I had to stop long before this question.

In the last 25 years I have received more than 20 jury summons. I have served on county, circuit, and grand jury. Enough is enough. Let someone who has not served get the chance. Leave someone who has served in the last 5 or 10 years ALONE!

Notes should only be permitted in trials over one day. I do not want anyone serving on my jury unless they were there because of their civic duty, not because they were forced.

The Bible is clear in reference to judging others. There are different cases explained in the Gospel to support this.

Anyone who has worked in the legal field is never wanted on a jury so it is a waste of their time to report.

I was not chosen as a juror. I feel the selection process could have made more efficient use of our time by better scheduling. There were a lot of wasted labor hours in the jury assembly room.

Deal with cell phones and beepers. One juror was dismissed for using a cell phone to call his office!

Sometimes due to delays you sit in the Jury Deliberation room. It would be nice to have a deck of playing cards or games to help the time pass. We suggested this to the Judge. She did tell us that they could not put magazines in the room.

Jury selection took 5 hours. A lot of redundant questions were asked. We are lay people, we are not lawyers so we do not clearly understand what beyond a reasonable doubt means. There was a lot of legal mumbo jumbo and unnecessary time spent selecting the jury.

This was a true learning experience. Should a person not have served by the time he/she retires, it should be mandatory that he/she serve within two years. I was particularly interested in the "teen-court" process I observed while serving on another jury.

I came down with an "ulcerated cornea" while serving on jury duty. I was unable to make it to the last day of the trial. I have had "Customer no-service" from Judge Baker's office and the jury room in trying to get paid for the time spent.

I like the way Broward County now lets the excess jurors go by section, and not by people raising their hands. I had a most enjoyable, not to mention, educational day.

My Juror # is 20001030 112751. From your list I assume that my services were not needed this time. I really like this web site! Otherwise, I would have wasted all morning only to be sent home.

Many kudos on how well you have the juror administration process down! I've served as a juror in another city and state and this experience was much better and pleasant; everything, from the directions to park, to taking the

Limousine to the courthouse.

It appears there is a large amount of folks selected who sit around all day and do nothing. Certainly there are tasks that can be done by the citizens who have been called to report. I am sure plenty of the bored people who report would gladly volunteer.

They shouldn't take so many breaks! In any 8 hour day, there are 3 hours of testimony and 5 hours of breaks/lunch etc.

The case was dismissed because the State picked the wrong person involved in the robbery. That wasted tax money, court time, and most important jury time.

The system you have now for jury duty is confusing, phone message says one thing and computer says another, so I'm not sure of reporting on November 27. My number is 200001127 000248 and it is not listed on jurors' list! The phone says 0002/000750 must attend.

I wish I could have been on their jury panel rather than being selected out. That's the way things go.

The morning session of selections on to a panel was well organized and happened quickly. I waited one hour and twenty minutes before the clerk came to get me for the afternoon session. In addition, the courthouse was too cold.

The jury and waiting rooms are too cold and caused discomfort and illness. You should provide activities (i.e., TV, more books, magazines); something more to wait the hours.

I always get called into criminal courts and then dismissed because of my brother's murder. Maybe I should only be summoned to civil jury trials. I want to serve, but it seems like a waste of time.

A great imprisonment compared to last time (about 5 to 7 years ago). It was very well organized. Please put a purse hook in the ladies bathroom.

I felt interrogated, my privacy violated. I feel they should ask certain questions privately if you cannot just nod your head! The fact that the defendant was there, made it very uncomfortable for me.

Given the frequently brief period of a prison sentence served for rape/assault, the information about and exposure of a female juror during voir dire is troubling to me. Her reward and fate for "participating in the democratic process" as a potential juror, could very easily become similar to the victim.

The jury selection process is very slow and time consuming. Each jury should be selected on the day of the trial to speed up things. You need new furniture in the jury room. The chairs in the jury box are very uncomfortable and should be replaced.

The judges were very patient and attentive, gave instructions exceptionally well, and were very fair to all. Superior job!

The jury form (verdict) was not clear and should be explained prior to sending the jury out. The bailiff was very professional, helpful and understanding. The judge was patient with questions.

There was no soap for hand washing in any bathroom used in the courthouse. In addition, the soap dispensers were not working properly.

In the jury selection room the benches should be made much more comfortable. The benches are not conducive to sitting all day.

One part of the process was way too long and drawn out. In both my trips to the courtroom the lawyers played "ping pong" when it came to the questioning about being a juror before.

You should provide a clock in the jury room.

The courtroom was too cold! We need parking and a snack bar.

Suggestion - A parking area is needed.

Written copies of the elements of the crime in question should be provided to the jurors when deliberating. This was my first time and I felt like I was contributing to the court system.

There was too much wasted time. It would be better if we could show up, serve and leave without all this sitting around. I've been just sitting and waiting so far (8 a.m. - 1:45 p.m). I am now going into the courtroom. The note on the summons to my house did not exclude full time students. It should.

I wanted to be called because I don't work. I feel its a way to pay back my community. But, instead of me being called, the people that had to work to put food on the table were called and they didn't want to be here. It doesn't make sense to me.

I was part of a pool of 22 people for a burglary case. It was very obvious the judge and the attorneys have no idea of the real world. A young attorney stated he had a family law case for the next day (1st day of trial). He was asked to reschedule.

I have been summoned 3 times in 10 years. Prior to then, I had been summoned once. Based upon my experience, it seems the selection process is focused upon a limited database and should be expanded.

I do not feel the lawyers should be allowed to pick the jury. In most cases they will pick a group they feel would be easy to sway or mold. I feel that only the judge should disallow a juror, no one else. Note: Play some type of soft music in the jury assembly room.

The staff in the jury selection room is very upbeat and friendly. This goes a long way in making it a positive experience. For those of us that didn't get called, this was our only exposure to the judicial system.

We need a satellite courthouse site to offset cases in a northwest location. It is unreasonable to expect people to travel so far. The travel should not be over a 30 minute commute each way. It becomes excessively expensive for those who must hire a ride.

You should have free coffee for jurors in the jurors' lounge.

The jurors should already be assigned to a judge and have a time to report to the courtroom like the lawyers. A hotline should be set up in the event the case is settled, etc. This would eliminate a jury room, wasted time for jurors and less tax dollars spent.

You should call all panels by noon and let the people who are not called go at that time.

You should be able to volunteer for jury service 2 times per year. Some people have never been called.

I still know a lot of people personally that have never served on a jury. I still feel they are not reaching all of the people. This is my eighth time.

You should have more than one civil/criminal courthouse within the county. Traffic is very bad and parking is just as bad. So many people live out west now. It is time to move into the future.

This was an overall enjoyable experience even though the sacrifice was large in terms of work.

Frivolous lawsuits should be limited.

Jurors should be paid more money. As a taxpayer I would pay more taxes for this compensation.

This was a very good and interesting opportunity to witness American Justice and democracy in action.

Jurors should not be called on a yearly basis. They should be given at least a two year break and compensated adequately. I, therefore, do not feel impartial and fair in my judgement!

If not selected for duty, jurors should be released. Better organization would eliminate the need for a pool.

The jury summons should indicate that you will likely be engaged for the entire day at the least.

I should be exempt for more than twelve months now!

It was a very interesting three days. I would love to be called to serve again soon.

It was a good experience.

It was a nice experience.

There was too much idle time.

You should check with our work schedule before calling!!!

I feel that maybe 3 times in 4 years is a little much.

People assigned to a judge who cancels should be allowed to go home. I am forced to sit here from 1:30 to 3:30 knowing that there are no more trials with 50 people sitting around who will never be needed. I have too much work to do to have my time wasted like this.

I strongly, strongly suggest that the economic waste factor in jury duty be reduced or eliminated, i.e. over 100 persons were sent home immediately, (not needed) many sat until early afternoon (not needed) and then went home. Taking an average quantity of persons not needed and multiplying that by every courthouse in the United States and multiplying that by the average wage multiplied by 210 days equals the economic waste factor which contributes to the non-competitiveness of the United States in the global market, which contributes to unemployment.

People who have a county address but live outside the county line should be able to serve. It is not fair to have a county address, but not be able to serve.

Whoever has the means to find the best lawyers and has access to technology and other means has the best chance

of coming out ahead. If there's not enough interest the full factual disclosure will not be available to present.

I think more orientation to the judicial system is needed. The verdict was all or nothing even though there were several parts to the law, when one fact wasn't met we had to say no (not guilty) even though we felt the other parts had been violated. We should be able to break it up and let the judge decide on punishment, if any, for the parts violated.

None. Sometimes it is boring to sit there, but we all need to do "our civil duty". I hope to, at least, reach voir dire the next time I am summoned for service.

You could have video tapes available.

The handbook for jurors is an excellent publication. This should be required reading for all jurors.

The ladies' bathroom was not clean. In addition, the sink did not operate properly.

Differentiate between those who served and rendered a verdict and those who did not with regard to this questionnaire.

It was too long of a wait!!

Once you have been picked to go to a judge and didn't get picked to be on the panel, you should be able to leave. I think there should be someone besides the judge that can excuse or deny the request for excusals. I was told by 3 different people that only a judge could excuse me. But if you are not picked for a jury you don't have the opportunity to request an excusal. It is now 2:30 p.m. and I have been told I have to remain until 3:30 p.m.

You should shorten the length of the selection of a jury panel.

First take the numbers of those willing to serve who don't work. Put them in a box and pick them out. Get things moving faster. Let the people know from the computer if they are in the top or bottom of the random list or post it on the wall so at least the first hour or 2 you can do something besides sitting there listening to numbers.

Note taking during a trial is a must! Also, jurors should be allowed to ask witnesses questions. More detailed and clearer charge definitions (1st degree, 2nd, etc.) should be given to jurors. Everyone connected with law enforcement should be exempt (including relatives).

You could make the jury deliberation room warmer.

You should begin on time. An 8:00 summons should begin at 8:00 not 8:45. Additionally, having an attitude toward a juror and dressing them down in front of others is uncalled for. When told this was inappropriate, I was directed to go to the supervisor. She did handle the situation. This should not have happened.

There were too many trials. There should be another venue for handling minor cases. You should have provided a stamped envelope to return this form.

On September 19, I was selected for a jury but when I arrived with the other six jurors, the Judge explained that things about the case had been changed. We reported for duty as jurors at 8:45 a.m., September 19, 2000 and were released by the judge very shortly after that due to the case being dismissed. I hope to have another chance.

There were too many breaks taken that were not needed and too much wasted time.

If you are not chosen to be on a jury by noon or 1:00 you should be dismissed. Some people are called all the time and others are never called.

I don't mind doing my duty, but perhaps there is another way to avoid just waiting around for endless hours to be seated. This is a misuse of our time and perhaps if the system moved faster, you would see more of us participating in this procedure. An outdoor patio area would be nice to have since our climate calls for it.

Attorneys should not address jurors by name. While some questions pertaining to the case are okay, personal questions are out. What work you do, how many children, how old are they, where you live, how long, etc. should be written and not asked in front of a defendant. An irate defendant could easily trace someone down. The juror pool should be decided before 12:00 and after 1:00. More people would be happy about it.

My personal opinion is that jury duty is an experience and every citizen (unless exempt) should have the opportunity to serve.

The result was that there was no jury decision. There was an "Outside Jury" agreement decision reached.

The bailiff in Judge Carney's courtroom was exceptional. He was attentive to all jurors. Judge Carney demonstrated control of the courtroom in a very calm but authoritative manner. It was a very educational and interesting experience although, emotionally exhausting. As someone who works with "at-risk" infants, it reinforced the importance of early intervention to try and prevent the emotional instability likely to lead to future criminals.

I waited for 6 hours for nothing.

Please advise jurors to bring sweaters. You should provide water and cups to the jurors in the courtroom and allow for restroom breaks at least every one and a half hours when court is in session.

I was the first alternate juror of nine. It became clear to me that some of the jury were becoming biased towards the Hispanic defendant, and were more concerned with their personal return to work than with the case. Comments were made to the effect that deliberations would end in any case "at 2:00 p.m." regardless of the outcome so that one juror could return to work and miss "rush hour". This jury took the easy way out for themselves. They screwed the plaintiff to avoid financial deliberations.

I enjoyed my experience.

You should have a pool of paid professional jurors like judges and attorneys.

After being called, if a juror is not used, the juror should be released for the day.

The accommodations for the disabled were very up scale and very good.

This was my first time on jury duty. My case was dismissed, so I don't have experience with a trial. It was an interesting process and the staff was friendly and helpful.

This was an involuntary jury service under threat of imprisonment and fine. This is not a democratic process, especially when one is forced to leave one's livelihood (and job) without fair compensation. The judge, lawyers, et al should take a 90% pay cut to serve the public. The way it is now, jury duty is not a civil duty, but a dictatorial decree.

Compliments to Judge Rothschild who took the time to explain to the prospective jurors why our services were not needed. He answered questions and was very friendly in his conversation to the panel he spoke to.

There were a lot of diversions such as a reading room, puzzles etc. It was very well run but why did we have to get here at 7:45 a.m. when nothing really happened until 9 a.m. (sworn in). The staff is very patient.

I was never selected to a case as my panel was sent back to the pool after our case was settled without need of a jury. I feel I should have been allowed to go home rather than wait around until 4 p.m.

I feel it is unfair that prospective jurors excused almost immediately after arriving, receive the same status of having served as those who sat here the whole day never being utilized. Talk about winning the lottery!

I was not called on any panel. Being self employed, this day was very costly to me to be wasted. Why not utilize those on unemployment insurance to serve as jurors instead of imposing hardship on working citizens?

Waiting in a jury pool when all panels have been called is wasted time.

Anyone missing jury duty with a bogus excuse should report to jury duty 4 times a year.

There should be a lunchroom in courthouses with reasonably priced food. You should have better pay so people don't want to get out of serving. For those who serve, provide day care for children under 12 years of age. This is another reason people don't want to serve.

I waited all day and was not asked/interviewed to serve. This is a bad use of everyone's time and not very productive. This has happened to me several times.

The courts should pay minimum wage. You should hire a cleaning crew too.

Jury duty should be paid equal to minimum wage, at least.

You could possibly change time frames (i.e., 50 opt to morning session, 50 opt to afternoon session). Then the juror only has to make arrangements for either 7:30 am to 12:30 or 12:30 - 5:30 unless chosen for trial.

Literacy should be an issue. If you cannot understand the rule of law you should be excused from duty. I have seen too many injustices done due to ignorance.

You should have all parties speaking to jurors to be sure they are clearly audible. Be sure that exhibits are clearly seen.

You should let us take notes.

Jurors who don't get paid while missing work should get paid the same as they would have while being at work. More data on the defendant's background is needed by the jurors.

I seem to have received a summons 3 of the past 4 years.

I feel jury duty is needed. I also feel notes should be allowed to be taken.

For those of us who live paycheck to paycheck, \$30.00 per day is not enough to live on.

The support procedure for children needs to be considered by both parties.

I was very disappointed I couldn't serve. I understand why I couldn't, so it was an experience.

Can the potential jurors be assigned to a courtroom? If there are any problems, then take people from a group that you have set aside just for replacing after the needed people are chosen.

Where I came from, they used a phone reporting system which eliminated waiting around the courthouse and excused infrequent recalls. Note: there should be a coordination of all court jury selection requirement coordinators to prevent multiple hits. There are enough citizens to answer the call.

I am concerned that the right to vote in Florida is not given the same importance as the duty to serve on a jury, which protects the right of a citizen to a trial by jury. Something isn't right here. Serving on voting day for the President I was bothered that whether or not I got to vote was left up to the judge. In my case the jury was dismissed in ample time for voting, but it was because the jury was selected in the afternoon for a trial beginning the next morning. What would have happened if the voting day was the trial day? Can't we establish policies/guidelines/laws that accommodate this right/privilege?

This is not a complaint. I would like to serve on jury duty. It seems I don't get picked. Also, because I am a teacher, could we get jury duty during the summer?

Attorneys should not be allowed to choose a jury. That makes impartiality impossible. Choosing judges should be on a partisan basis. I want to know where judges stand ideologically, morally and socially. How else can we make good and informed choices? At least let them state whether they are in favor of a strict or loose interpretation of the constitution.

If cases are planned ahead of time then why not assign jurors to those cases before they report for duty. This way we don't have to wait all day.

This system stinks! People who can't afford to sit on a long trial must do so. I come to sit on one and was never called. What a waste of time. Jurors could be polled as to what length and type of trial they could afford to sit on. I wanted to be called. I can afford to sit on one. I wanted to do my part.

You should consider letting individuals out when not being used.

I was not chosen and wanted to be. I feel I could be very fair.

Considering there are many thousands of citizens to choose for potential jurors, we should be able to choose if we want to participate, based on our various reasons and/or circumstances.

We had a mistrial after all this time and work by all involved because one juror didn't show for two days. I think she should have had a fine levied for contempt of court. If people can just not show up, the system will collapse and costs will rise.

The settlement was reached prior to the selection of a jury, however, all prospective jurors were held for almost two hours in a cold courtroom which was probably 50 - 55 degrees. I felt this was a total lack of consideration for a group of citizens who had honored their summons and only desired to complete a democratic duty.

I noticed biased behavior, ignorance in the law and the proceedings, stubborn attitudes, non-responsible decision - making and a "let us make a decision, it's getting late" attitude. I believe that juror selection, as important as it is, should be done only from the legal field and/or people with Bachelor degrees and above. Also, jurors who previously know each other or are related should not serve on the same panel of jurors. Their decision is influenced because of each others presence.

The court reporter in Judge Tharpe's court rolled her eyes and made exaggerated body language that indicated disgust for the defense attorney during jury selection. Question #24 doesn't make any sense.

The jury I was with was confused, uninformed and did not really want the responsibility of finding someone guilty. The average juror is "controlled" by the lawyer with the best presentation/speaking skills i.e., has presence and puts all the information into terms they can understand. The state attorney used words like "egregious".

The staff is friendly and accommodating. The jury assembly room is too cold and lighting is poor. It would be nice if they could show something more interesting on T.V., rather than sports or "how to" shows. How about a P.G. movie?

You could improve the waiting facilities and clean the vents in the ceiling !!