

Neal Roth

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To: nar@grossmanandroth.com
Subject: jury duty

Jury Duty

I have been called for jury duty several times and have found the system unorganized making it difficult to fulfill citizen duties. The instances I am referencing refer to criminal court.

1. You are sent a card and can easily check if you need to report for jury duty however...you get there at 8:00 a.m. and SIT... by the time the court activity gets started it is close to 10 a.m. ...WHY sit there and waste the jurors time.

2. When I did serve the judge kept us till after 6:30 p.m. and this was not due to deliberation of the jury. It is not the safest neighborhood to walk in at night and get the train. Nor was there an escort provided. There was also much time wasted on breaks and waiting for witnesses.

3. When I was selected for a jury, I and other jurors took our job seriously. We deliberated and had a legitimate question (so we thought).

When we asked to review the transcripts, the Judge . . . was rude and yelled. He told us we would have to remember and we werenot going to review anything. The entire jury felt we were belittled, and reprimanded for trying to make a fair judgment. As we went back in to deliberate it was sickening to see 3 jurors change their vote so we had a unanimous decision and say "we are out of here, I am not going to be yelled at."

4. Finally, all members of the court should treat the jurors as they would want to be treatedwith dignity and respect. Maybe then people would serve more readily.