

As a juror, you may vote “Not Guilty” for any reason you believe is just.

Around 97% of federal and 95% of state criminal charges are decided without the benefit of trial by jury. Many who risk trial by jury are punished with a far harsher sentence (known as the “trial tax”) merely for exercising their Constitutionally guaranteed right.

You ALWAYS have the option of finding the defendant “Not Guilty.” Even if you believe the law was broken. Even if the judge says you must convict.

Did the government prove beyond NO reasonable doubt that the defendant broke the law? There is no partial credit for the prosecution! Each charge must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt every time.

Is the law that was broken Constitutional? The Constitution is the highest law of the land. When lower and higher law conflict, lower law must give way.

Was the law that was broken just (and justly applied in the case at hand)? Do not check your conscience or your common sense at the courthouse door! Apply them to deliver just verdicts.

Was anyone harmed? Consider whether you would be doing justice to harm someone who has not harmed anyone.

Does the punishment fit the crime? Mandatory sentences can result in unfair punishment.

Do other factors exist that would make strict enforcement of the law unjust in this case? Excessive penalties are unjust, expensive for taxpayers, and can ruin lives. Jurors have the ability to temper law with mercy when circumstances call for it.

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