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# *Juror Orientation Overview*



*United States District Court  
for the District of Columbia*



# Overview

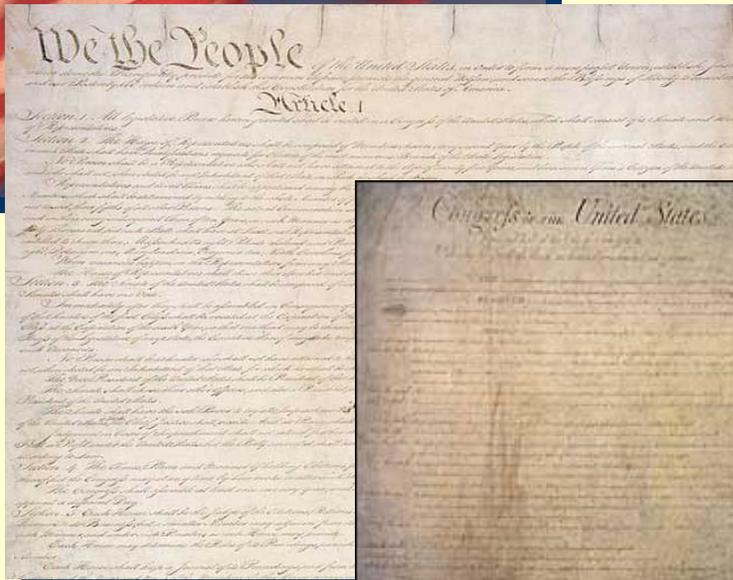
- *History of Jury Service*
- *Jury Type*
- *Voir Dire*
- *Juror's Role*
- *Actions Jurors Cannot Do*
- *Roles in the Courtroom*
- *Trial Process*
- *Jury Deliberations*



# History



**In the United States, the Right to a Trial by a Jury Is Guaranteed.**



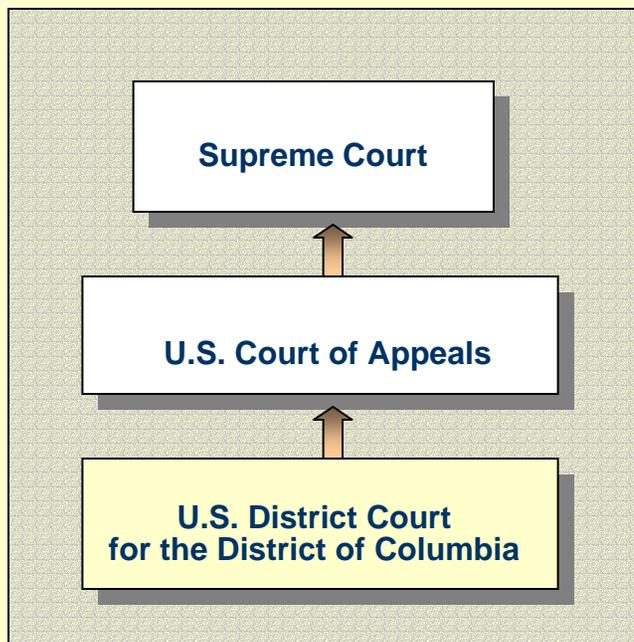
- *Article III of the Constitution*
- *7th Amendment*





# History- Continued

## Article III



**Judicial Branch**

**Article III Establishes the Judicial Branch as One of the Three Separate Branches of Federal Government. Under the Judicial Branch, the Federal Courts Hear Different Types of Cases that Arise Under Federal Law:**

- *Antitrust*
- *Labor Relations*
- *Income Taxes*
- *Social Security*
- *Civil Rights*
- *Disputes Between Two States*
- *Civil and Criminal Cases in Which the United States Is a Party*
- *Cases Involving the U.S. Constitution or Treaties*



# History- Continued

## Amendment VI



**"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense." *Sixth Amendment, U.S. Constitution***



# History- Continued

## Amendment VII



**Amendment VII States “In Suits at Common Law, Where the Value in Controversy Shall Exceed Twenty Dollars, *the Right of Trial by Jury Shall Be Preserved*, and No Fact Tried by a Jury, Shall Be Otherwise Reexamined in Any Court of the United States, Than According to the Rules of the Common Law.”**



# Jury Type

**The U.S. District Court Has Two Types of Juries--  
Petit Jury and Grand Jury.**



## **Petit Jury or “*Trial Jury.*”**

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**A Petit Jury is a group of citizens who hear the evidence presented by both sides at trial and determine the facts. Federal criminal juries consist of 12 jurors plus alternates. Civil juries consist of at least 6 jurors up to 12.**

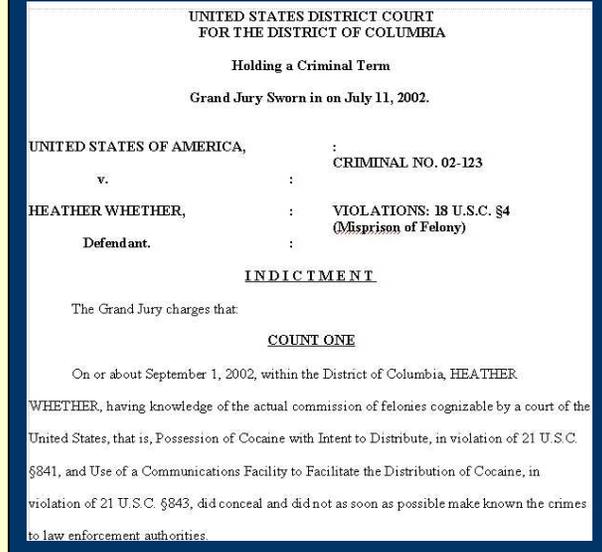
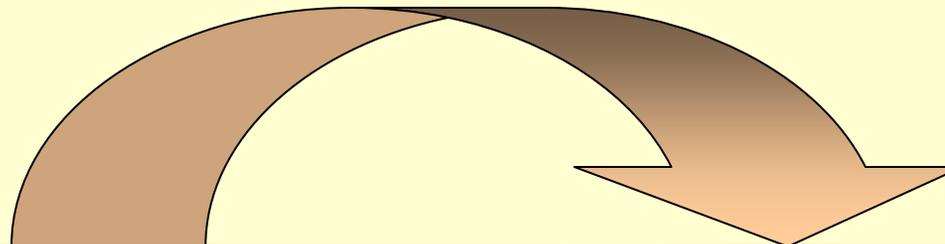


# Jury Type - Continued

## Grand Jury

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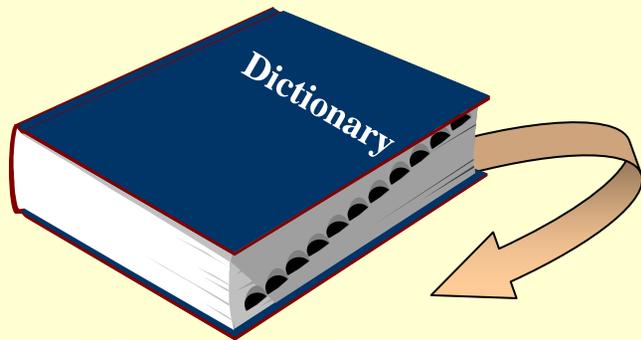
**A Grand Jury is a body of 23 jurors who listen to evidence of criminal allegations presented by the government. The Grand Jury determines whether there is enough evidence to issue an indictment and conduct a trial.**





# Voir Dire

**Upon Reporting for Jury Duty, Jurors Attend a Voir Dire Before Final Selection to a Jury Panel.**



**Voir Dire means *“to speak the truth.”***

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**Voir Dire is the process by which judges and lawyers select a jury from among citizens eligible to serve. The judge and sometimes the lawyers from both parties may question the citizens to make certain that they can fairly decide the case.**



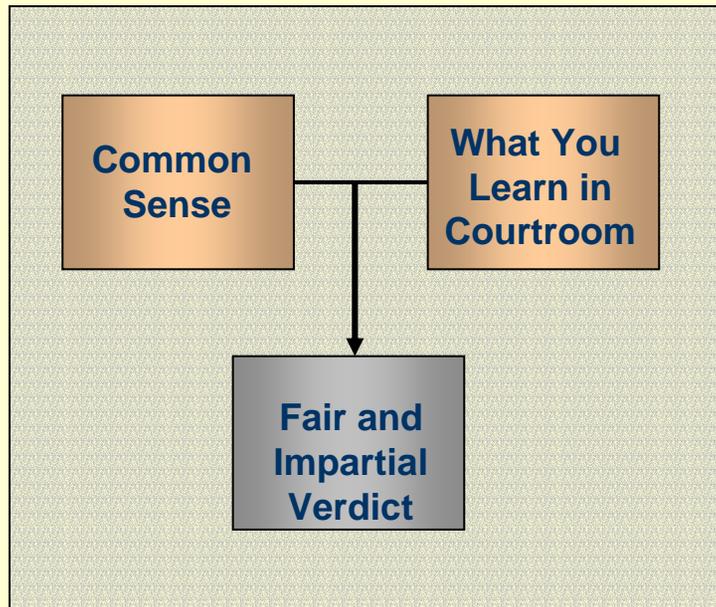
## Voir Dire - Continued

- **Types of Questions Asked:**
  - *What Is Your Occupation?*
  - *Have You Heard or Read about the Case?*
  - *Do You Know Any of the Parties, Witnesses, or Attorneys?*
- **Juror May Request to Speak Directly with the Judge During the Questioning Period.**



# Juror's Role

**The Juror's Role Is to Reach an Impartial Verdict  
Based on Evidence and Law.**



- *Everything That You Need to Know Will Be Seen, Heard, and Read About in the Courtroom.*
- *The Combination of Common Sense and What You Learn in the Courtroom Will Assist You in Reaching an Impartial Verdict.*



## Actions Jurors Cannot Do



- *Cannot Read, Hear, or Watch News Accounts About the Case.*
- *No Mingling or Talking with Anyone Involved in the Case.*
- *Cannot Discuss the Case with Other Jurors until Jury Deliberations.*
- *Cannot Discuss the Case Outside the Courthouse with Family Members and Friends.*
- *Cannot Do Any Independent Research About the Case Including No Research on the Internet or Visit the Crime Scene.*



# Roles in the Courtroom

**Judge:**

**The Judge Presides Over the Trial, Controls the Courtroom, and Decides the Evidence and All Questions of Law.**

**Courtroom Deputy:**

**The Courtroom Deputy Calls Court to Order, Swears in Witnesses, Manages the Exhibits, and Keeps the Minutes to Be Posted to the Court Docket.**

**Court Reporter:**

**The Court Reporter Takes Down the Record of Proceedings and Provides Transcripts in a Later Stage of the Proceedings if Needed.**

**U.S. Marshal/Court Security Officer:**

**The U.S. Marshal/Court Security Officer Is Responsible for Overall Security in the Courtroom.**



# Trial Process



- *Jurors Take Oath*
- *Opening Statements*
- *Presentation of Evidence*
- *Cross-Examination of Witnesses*
- *Closing Arguments*
- *Jury Deliberations*



# Trial Process - Continued

## Jurors Take Oath:

**The Courtroom Deputy Administers the Oath to All of the Jurors.**

## Opening Statements:

**Attorneys from both Sides Take a Turn and Present an Overview of What the Case Is About.**

## Presentation of Evidence:

**This Phase Includes the Testimony of Witnesses and Presentation of Exhibits (Photos, Documents, Diagrams, and Other Physical Objects).**

## Examination of Witnesses:

**Each Side Is Provided the Opportunity to Question the Witnesses.**

## Closing Arguments:

**The Attorneys Provide a Summary of the Evidence.**

## Jury Deliberations:

**The Jury Receives Instructions from the Judge and Deliberates Until a Verdict Is Reached.**



# Jury Deliberations



- *Receive Judge's Instructions*
- *Decide Who Is the Foreperson*
- *Review the Facts of Testimony and Evidence*
- *Reach a Verdict if Possible*





## Closing

*I would like to welcome you to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. One vital element of this Court is jury service. As a juror, you play a significant role in ensuring that justice is carried out fairly and impartially in the District of Columbia, and you participate in one of the most important aspects of being a United States citizen. I'm sure this will be an interesting and rewarding experience.*

*Angela Caesar, Clerk*