

## What you should know as a potential juror

**It is the duty of the court to advise you of the law, and it is your duty to consider the instructions of the court; however, if you find that the law or the application which the court instructs you upon is unjust, you may vote to acquit the defendant or find him not liable for damages.**

*“It is not only [the juror’s] right but also his duty...to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgment, and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court.”*

John Adams, Second U.S. President and signer of the Declaration of Independence

*“It is presumed, that juries are the best judges of facts; it is, on the other hand, presumed that courts are the best judges of law. But still both objects are within your power of decision...you [juries] have a right to take it upon yourselves to judge of both, and to determine the law as well as the fact in controversy.”*

John Jay, First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

The power of *jury nullification* is an important constitutional safeguard against bad laws, and is one of the most effective ways to prevent unconstitutional government intrusion into citizens’ lives—and *your* life. In the past, jury nullification has been used to oppose slavery laws, support the civil rights movement, protect private property, and defend religious activities.

The Judge and the prosecuting attorney will likely instruct you that, if the prosecution proves its case beyond a reasonable doubt, you must convict; however, if you feel beyond a reasonable doubt that something is wrong with the law itself, as applied in this case, then you have the power to acquit. According to the Constitution, the trial belongs to the jury, not the judge. Don’t let yourself be coerced into rendering a verdict you’ll regret!

For more information on this topic, visit [www.fija.org](http://www.fija.org).

## What you should know as a potential juror

**It is the duty of the court to advise you of the law, and it is your duty to consider the instructions of the court; however, if you find that the law or the application which the court instructs you upon is unjust, you may vote to acquit the defendant or find him not liable for damages.**

*“It is not only [the juror’s] right but also his duty...to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgment, and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court.”*

John Adams, Second U.S. President and signer of the Declaration of Independence

*“It is presumed, that juries are the best judges of facts; it is, on the other hand, presumed that courts are the best judges of law. But still both objects are within your power of decision...you [juries] have a right to take it upon yourselves to judge of both, and to determine the law as well as the fact in controversy.”*

John Jay, First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

The power of *jury nullification* is an important constitutional safeguard against bad laws, and is one of the most effective ways to prevent unconstitutional government intrusion into citizens’ lives—and *your* life. In the past, jury nullification has been used to oppose slavery laws, support the civil rights movement, protect private property, and defend religious activities.

The Judge and the prosecuting attorney will likely instruct you that, if the prosecution proves its case beyond a reasonable doubt, you must convict; however, if you feel beyond a reasonable doubt that something is wrong with the law itself, as applied in this case, then you have the power to acquit. According to the Constitution, the trial belongs to the jury, not the judge. Don’t let yourself be coerced into rendering a verdict you’ll regret!

For more information on this topic, visit [www.fija.org](http://www.fija.org).