Guilty or Not Guilty?

What should you do as a juror if you don't agree with the law or how it is applied in the case at hand?



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 may be the defendant's last hope for a fair hearing and a just verdict!

Learn more at FIJA.org



You ALWAYS have the option of Not Guilty

- even if you believe the law was broken
- · even if the judge says you must convict

Judges are officially not allowed to instruct jurors to convict, but courts have been extremely lenient with judges who lead jurors into Guilty verdicts they regret.

Don't fall for it!

NO

NO

NO

NO

Did the government prove beyond reasonable doubt that the accused broke the law?

YES

Is the law that was broken Constitutional?

↓ YES

Is the law that was broken just (and justly applied in the case at hand)?

YES

Was anyone harmed? Was anyone's property harmed?

YES

Does the punishment fit the crime?

YES

Do other factors exist that would make strict enforcement of the law unjust in this case?

✓ NOT GUILTY

There is no partial credit for the prosecution! Each charge must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt every time.

✓ NOT GUILTY

The Constitution is the highest law of the land. When lower and higher law conflict, lower law must give way.

✓ NOT GUILTY

Do not check your conscience or your common sense at the courthouse door! Apply them to deliver just verdicts.

✓ NOT GUILTY

Consider whether you would be doing justice to harm someone who has not harmed anyone or their property.

✓ NOT GUILTY

Mandatory sentences can result in unfair punishment. Excessive penalties are unjust, expensive for taxpayers, and can ruin lives.

✓ NOT GUILTY

Jurors have the ability to temper law with mercy when circumstances call for it.



