



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

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FACT SHEET

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Justice for All: Jury Service and A More Perfect Jury: a History of Jury Service

California's newest official jury orientation video and vignette provide a thoughtful and accessible overview of the juror experience, featuring modern courtrooms, historic courthouses, a diverse cast, as well as interviews with judges, academics, and former jurors. While they were designed specifically for viewing in jury assembly rooms to help courts prepare jurors for this important civic duty, they also serve as valuable public education tools on the essential role that jurors serve in our justice system and their history.

Highlights

Justice for All and *A More Perfect Jury* were produced in a real courtroom at the Superior Court of San Joaquin County's modern Stockton courthouse. The video and accompanying vignette also feature the historic Auburn courthouse of the Superior Court of Placer County; the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District; Judicial Council offices in the state capital at Sacramento; and the California Judicial Center Library in San Francisco.

The video takes viewers through the jury selection process, the trial, jury deliberations, and the verdict. The vignette explores the history of jury service, its origins in English common law, its evolution through the Civil Rights and Women's Suffrage movements, until the present day to become a more diverse and inclusive part of our court system.

Development and Production

Justice For All and *A More Perfect Jury* were developed by the Judicial Council's Jury Improvement Program (JIP)—under the guidance of an ad hoc workgroup comprised of court executives and judicial officers—to replace the 20-year-old original orientation video, *Ideals Made Real*. The creation of a new jury orientation video and its companion vignette was a four-year long project, beginning in 2018

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and requiring the support of multiple judicial branch stakeholders collaborating with our justice partners and the contracted vendor, Slow Clap Productions. Actual filming took place in the fall of 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, utilizing a combination of public health precautions to ensure the safety of all participants.

An updated introduction and conclusion with Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero were filmed in 2023. Improving the juror experience to maintain access to justice remains an important goal of the branch as jury service is a fundamental right and cornerstone of our democracy. More information for jurors is available on the California Courts website at www.courts.ca.gov/jury-service.htm.

Distribution

The Judicial Council has distributed the video and vignette to all courts in California's 58 counties and will continue to do so along with other juror educational materials. As of March 2023, the videos have been seen by approximately 10 million people, streamed online over 55,000 times, and viewed in courts by over one million jurors.

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