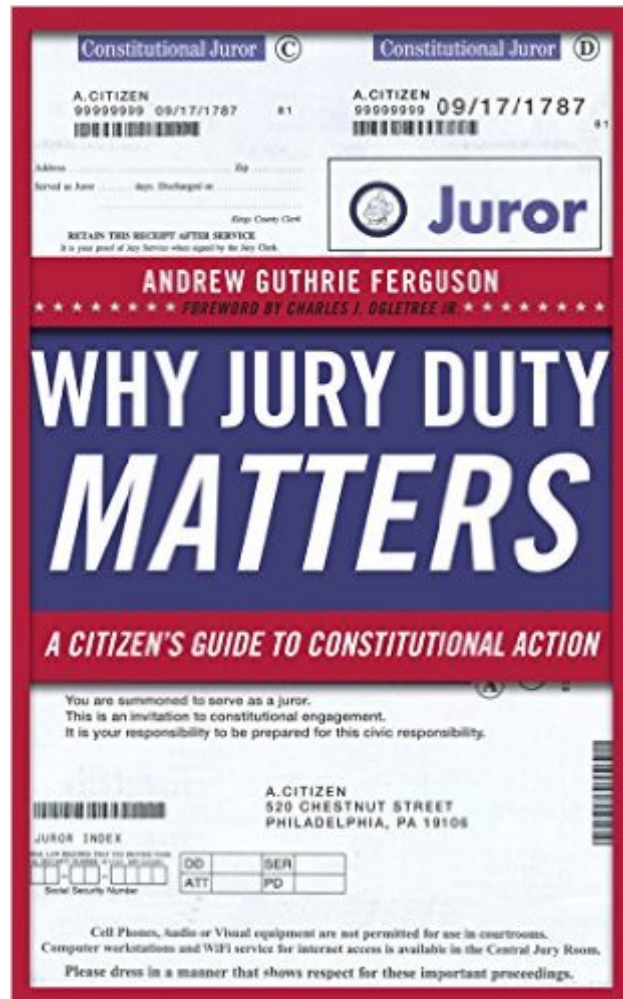


The book was found

# Why Jury Duty Matters: A Citizen's Guide To Constitutional Action



## Synopsis

It's easy to forget how important the jury really is to America. The right to be a juror is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed to all eligible citizens. The right to trial by jury helped spark the American Revolution, was quickly adopted at the Constitutional Convention, and is the only right that appears in both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. But for most of us, a jury summons is an unwelcome inconvenience. Who has time for jury duty? We have things to do. In *Why Jury Duty Matters*, Andrew Guthrie Ferguson reminds us that whether we like it or not, we are all constitutional actors. Jury duty provides an opportunity to reflect on that constitutional responsibility. Combining American history, constitutional law, and personal experience, the book engages citizens in the deeper meaning of jury service. Interweaving constitutional principles into the actual jury experience, this book is a handbook for those Americans who want to enrich the jury experience. It seeks to reconnect ordinary citizens to the constitutional character of a nation by focusing on the important, and largely ignored, democratic lessons of the jury. Jury duty is a shared American tradition. It connects people across class and race, creates habits of focus and purpose, and teaches values of participation, equality, and deliberation. We know that juries are important for courts, but we don't know that jury service is important for democracy. This book inspires us to re-examine the jury experience and act on the constitutional principles that guide our country before, during, and after jury service.

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: NYU Press (December 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0814729037

ISBN-13: 978-0814729038

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #988,670 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Jury #179 in Books > Law > Legal Theory & Systems > Judicial System #605 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Political Science > Constitutions

## Customer Reviews

There's is plenty to like about this book, but it tends to read at times like a publication of the League

of Women's Voters. Uncritical praise of the Constitution makes a fetish of a document that demands critical appraisal, and not unflinching adoration. Illustrative of the book's weakness is the following: "The genius of our jury system was to set up a mechanism so that both sides believe that they have a fair shot at winning the case. They show up because they have faith that the system will be fair." Really? Most criminal defense lawyers know a darker truth: Trials often take place because there is no hope of a just outcome -- the plea offer is too high, the charges lodged are disproportionate to the conduct alleged. Often folks go to trial not in the hope that they will get a fair trial, but in the desperate illusion that a miracle may rescue them from the inevitable. The author knows this. He was a public defender in the District of Columbia. So why is he writing with such dewy-eyed naivete? He's left the practice of law to become a law professor, teaching now at the David A. Clarke School of Law in the District of Columbia. This book won't get him tenure in a law school, but, frankly, it could get him appointed a judgeship. As I read, I could see him sitting on a bench, clad in his black robe, and telling jurors just how lucky they were to serve. The work has the sensibility of civics textbook. Perhaps there is nothing wrong with this. But I would have liked to see more on jury nullification, on the truly radical potential that jurors have to find facts and challenge misapplications of the law. Instead, the work read like an apologia for the middle of the road. The best thing about the book is the lavish footnotes.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Why Jury Duty Matters: A Citizen's Guide to Constitutional Action Citizen's Guide to Colorado Water Law (Citizen's Guide Series Book 1) Pufendorf: On the Duty of Man and Citizen according to Natural Law (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought) Standard Catalog of American Light-Duty Trucks: Pickups, Panels, Vans, All Models 1896-2000 (Standard Catalog of American Light-Duty Trucks, 1896-2000) How To Get Out of Jury Duty Engines of Liberty: The Power of Citizen Activists to Make Constitutional Law We, the Jury: The Jury System and the Ideal of Democracy Grand Jury 2.0: Modern Perspectives on the Grand Jury Mastering Voir Dire and Jury Selection: Gain an Edge in Questioning and Selecting Your Jury Citizen Action For Global Change: The Neptune Group and Law of the Sea (Peace and Conflict Resolution) Constitutional Law: Rights, Liberties and Justice 8th Edition (Constitutional Law for a Changing America) Men on Strike: Why Men Are Boycotting Marriage, Fatherhood, and the American Dream - and Why It Matters What Really Matters for Struggling Readers: Designing Research-Based Programs (3rd Edition) (What Really Matters Series) Why Can't My Child Behave?: Why Can't She Cope? Why Can't He Learn? The Feingold Diet updated for today's busy families IS THIS WHY AFRICA IS? (Why Africa is poor, Why Africa is not developing, What Africa needs, What Africa needs to develop): Africa, Africa,

Africa, Africa Africa, Africa, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola Cosmic Constitutional Theory: Why Americans Are Losing Their Inalienable Right to Self-Governance (Inalienable Rights) Barbed Wire, Barricades, and Bunkers: The Free Citizen's Guide to Fortifying the Home Retreat GMO Myths and Truths: A Citizen's Guide to the Evidence on the Safety and Efficacy of Genetically Modified Crops and Foods, 3rd Edition The Daily Show with Jon Stewart Presents America (The Book) Teacher's Edition: A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction Reading and Writing for Civic Literacy: The Critical Citizen's Guide to Argumentative Rhetoric (Cultural Politics and the Promise of Democracy)

[Dmca](#)