NEWS RELEASE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



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NEW JUROR AMENITIES AVAILABLE DURING JUROR APPRECIATION WEEK

\$700,000 Grant Allows for Much-Needed Improvements for SF Jurors

Cell phone charging stations, improved language access to obtain jury instructions by telephone, and self-service kiosks for jury service check-in are among the new services for jurors the Court is highlighting during Juror Appreciation Week, Court Executive Officer and Jury Commissioner Brandon E. Riley announced today.

Recognition for jurors this week (May 12-16) was established by a special resolution passed by the California Legislature in 1998 to acknowledge the important contributions of citizens who devote their time and effort in "making the cherished right of trial by jury a reality."

This week, approximately 6,500 San Franciscans have been summoned for jury service.

"Jurors are fundamental and essential to our justice system and we appreciate their dedication as well as the personal and professional sacrifices they undertake to serve on juries in the City and County of San Francisco," Presiding Judge Rochelle C. East said. "I thank the Judicial Council of California for providing the Court with the resources to modernize our jury services and equipment."

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CEO/Jury Commissioner Riley added, "In appreciation to our jurors, we strive to make their stay in our jury assembly rooms convenient, comfortable and connected to meet their needs. The judges and our staff deeply respect the vital role of jurors in our judicial system and work together to make their experience with us the best it can be as they fulfill their jury service."

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Court summoned 298,576 people for jury service, and of those, 148,865 completed jury service in person or by telephone standby.

The Court collaborates with the Judicial Council of California to recognize the millions of Californians who answer the call to serve their communities and put into practice the fundamental American ideal of trial by jury. Citizens who fulfill their jury service obligation are continuing a tradition established under the Constitution over 200 years ago. Without jurors, trial by a jury of your peers would collapse.

Here is a list of the new services and technology available to San Francisco jurors in the jury assembly rooms at the Hall of Justice (HOJ) at 850 Bryant St. and the Civic Center Courthouse (CCC) at 400 McAllister St.:

- Cell phone charging stations.
- Updated scanning technology in kiosks allowing jurors to check themselves in with a picture of their jury badge. Previously jurors could only self-check in if they had a paper summons.
- New audio-visual equipment, including larger televisions and newly installed HDMI connections, which allow for better visualization and presentations.
- New microphones to allow for better judicial interaction with jurors during juror hardships and voir dire.
- Updated assistive listening device equipment to enhance the sound and comfort for jurors who are hearing-impaired.

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• Adding visual displays in deliberation rooms for presentation of digital evidence displayed during trial.

The recorded juror line now hosts three languages for jurors to assist non-English-speaking residents to get the information and instructions they need. English, Spanish and Chinese are available. In addition, the Jury Office staff have made the Court's webpage easier to read. It also provides more information about how to navigate the jury process in San Francisco and allows jurors to find information more easily.

At the Hall of Justice, new window coverings were installed for better temperature control in the jury assembly room. At CCC, new light controls were also installed in the jury assembly room.

More information on jury service in San Francisco is available <u>here</u>.

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