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New Jersey Judiciary Celebrates Juror Appreciation Week

The New Jersey Judiciary is highlighting Juror Appreciation Week as an opportunity to recognize the contributions to justice made by citizens who serve as jurors.

Juror Appreciation Week, April 30 to May 4, is linked closely with Law Day, which has been celebrated on May 1 since 1958 as "a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law."

"Jury service is a vital aspect of our government," said Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts. "Those who serve as jurors not only serve their country, but they also serve as an integral part of the justice system. We want them to know the Judiciary greatly appreciates their contributions."

Judge Grant noted the Judiciary's continuing efforts to enhance juror service for New Jersey citizens. Prospective jurors have the ability to respond to their jury summons online in place of mailing in their response. In an effort to reduce the disruption to an individual's personal life, the Judiciary has implemented a call-off procedure to ensure that only the number of needed jurors are required to report to the courthouse.

Each Superior Court posts daily reporting information to the Judiciary website, njcourts.gov, to help jurors receive current information about reporting for service.

Jurors can sign up for email and text reminders about their scheduled jury service and they can download the mobile app NJ Juror, which provides helpful information, including directions, parking and contact information for each courthouse.

A New Jersey resident can be called as a juror for one of three types of service: petit juror, grand juror, or state grand juror.

Petit jury service includes criminal and civil trials. Petit jurors determine defendants' guilt or innocence in criminal trials or determine liability or damages in civil trials.

Grand jurors determine whether there is sufficient evidence to move forward with criminal charges against a defendant. A grand juror can serve either in his or her county or also can serve in Trenton on a state grand jury that has statewide jurisdiction and representation.

In recognition of Juror Appreciation Week, the Judiciary released a short video of residents expressing their views about the importance of jury service.