

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

## DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA

Quentin N. Burdick United States Courthouse  
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 Fargo, North Dakota 58102-4932

**PETER D. WELTE**  
Chief Judge

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Dear Jurors,

On behalf of the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you as you begin your jury service.

Jury services poses both a commitment and an opportunity to you. Being a juror takes time from your family, your work, and your friends. We recognize it can be a financial burden as well. But your service is essential to our system of justice. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated.

The Constitution guarantees to all citizens the right to have most cases tried to a jury. It also requires that no one be held answerable on a felony criminal charge unless probable cause has been established by the Grand Jury. Without people willing to serve as jurors, our system of justice would completely break down. The jury is the people's voice in our system of justice—and it is the voice that makes our American justice system the envy of the world.

We will do everything within our power to make your experience a positive one. We will treat you with dignity and respect. We will respect your time to the best of our ability. We will do our best to address any concerns you may have. If you think that we have broken any of these promises, please contact us. My telephone number, as well as my mailing address, are at the top of this page. If you call, just tell the person who answers the phone that you are a juror with a comment or complaint. I have instructed my staff to forward all such calls to me directly.

Finally, please try to relax and enjoy the experience. Jurors frequently say that jury service is one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. If you approach your jury service with a positive and open mind set, it may very well be a uniquely positive and rewarding experience.

On behalf of the Federal District Court, thank you for your service. We are honored by your presence and your willingness to serve.

Peter D. Welte  
Chief United States District Judge