

Public Comment Submitted
Via Task Force on Removing
Barriers to Jury Service
Online Contact Form

Public Comment Submitted December 12, 2025, by HK Kahng:

“Members of the Task Force on Removing Barriers to Jury Service, I served in the Multnomah County jury pool in November 2025 and was seated on a panel for a firearms case. I participated fully in voir dire and was ultimately excused. I understand that your task force is studying why roughly half of summoned Oregonians either don’t respond or ask to be excused. I’m writing from the other half: the people who do show up, rearrange their lives, and then get sorted out by the mechanism. I’ve documented the experience and its costs – financial, logistical, and emotional – in the following essays*: The Molecule: Three Days Inside the Wankel Engine of the American Judicial System Day One: Intake, Day Two: Compression, Day Three: Combustion and Exhaust, The Constitutional Turducken: Or, The Right To Bear Arms and Why We Can’t Have Nice Things. Taken together, these pieces describe what it feels like to be processed as a juror: - the practical costs of serving (time, transportation, parking, food, lost work), - the psychological experience of being “fuel” for the system, and – the tension between the ideal of “beyond a reasonable doubt” and the realities of how cases, guns, and people actually show up in Oregon in 2025. Please consider this as testimony from the inside of the process you’re studying. The barriers aren’t only logistical. Some of them are baked into how the mechanism itself operates—and how it feels to be used by it. Thank you for your work, and for taking juror experience seriously enough to study it.”

*The Oregon Judicial Department has removed the links to these articles from “The Grey Ledger Society”

Note: A member of the public submitted the above message. They are not an employee of the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). Their message included links to four essays on an external website called “The Grey Ledger Society.” OJD removed the links. OJD does not affiliate with, endorse, control, or monitor “The Grey Ledger Society.” OJD cannot promise that its contents are safe to view, click on, download, etc.