

## **Jury Duty**

### **Importance of Jury Service**

Trial by jury is one of the most important rights which Americans enjoy and is unique to our system of justice. Trial by jury is guaranteed by the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Ohio. To be called upon to serve as a juror is one of the most important civic duties you may ever perform.

### **Reporting for jury duty**

Jurors should report to the clerk's office at 8:30 on the date of your summons. The Huron Municipal Court selects a jury for a three month period, however, jurors are not expected to report every day for three months. The court usually only has a few cases scheduled during this time. Jurors will be notified by mail for the date in which they are to appear. Upon the cancellation of a trial the court will notify you by telephone. Jurors should come to the Municipal City Building at the date indicated on their summons. After all jurors have assembled and have been checked in by the Clerk of Courts, the Clerk will explain the schedule and procedure for the trial at hand. Jurors then remain with the Clerk until called for trial. Jurors will then be escorted to the Courtroom when the trial is ready to begin.

### **Juror Selection Process**

Potential jurors are selected by the Erie County Common Pleas Court and submitted to this court on a yearly basis. From the 300 selected for a year, the court will randomly select approximately 30-40 potential jurors for a three month period. When called for trial, all potential jurors take an oath and are questioned first by the Judge and then by the attorney's. This process is called *voir dire*. The goal of the *voir dire* is to obtain a fair and impartial jury for each trial. After questioning the jurors, each attorney has the right to excuse a certain number of jurors. After the attorneys are satisfied with the composition of the jury, the remaining jurors are sworn and constitute the panel for that jury. The other jurors are excused.