**Potential Research Projects**

Civil Jury Project

1. Explore anchoring effects on jury's decisions regarding damages that are brought about by the monetary-sum verdict asked for by the plaintiff (or by the defendant).
2. Explore the rationality, arbitrariness, variability, and accuracy of various methods of determining non-economic damages, including the per-diem method.
3. Examine factors that prevent jurors from reporting for service.
4. Explore whether “hardship funds” are effective in promoting jury participation and [jury diversity](https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2019/05/09/courts-seek-increase-jury-diversity).
5. What types of community outreach/education programs might increase summons response rates? (e.g., nonprofits, religious organizations, social media).
6. Find out what courts are doing to encourage juror participation for those who face logistical impediments to serving (e.g., modified trial schedule, shuttle bus service, access to courthouse daycare).
7. What have judges done (or attempted to do) to simplify jury instructions? Have these efforts been effective?
8. Find out whether judges prefer judge-led voir dire to attorney-led voir dire and, if so, why?
9. Explore whether jurors prefer one-on-one questioning to group questioning and, if so, their reasons for this preference. (e.g., privacy concerns, discomfort speaking about sensitive subjects).
10. Determine whether judge and juror preferences about voir dire questioning have changed over time.
11. How can we use high-low agreements to remove the perceived danger of extreme jury verdicts?
12. Do more trials in fact result in slower disposition?
13. Do litigants accept jury trial results better than the results of bench trials or arbitration?
14. Does the method of selection of judges affect their willingness to go to trial?
15. Do Central Dockets (or “Master Calendars”) dispose of more cases by trial? Do they result in the faster disposal of all cases?
16. Have there been additional studies of the merits of larger juries over the past few years?
17. Does jury discussion of the evidence prior to deliberation work to the benefit of plaintiffs?
18. Has internet research on the part of jurors been an actual impediment to fair trials? Has the National Center for State Court’s model instruction been effective?
19. Are juror orientation videos effective? How can these videos be improved for jurors?
20. What is the impact of third-party litigation funding?